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Canada's Gay Community Magazine

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this month in OUTLOOKS

letters 4
editorial 6
fashion 12
out & about vancouver 14
outpost vancouver 15
youth 16
out & about montréal 19
horoscope 22
dear freddy 25
don't you wish 30
classifieds 34

Cover: With an ever-so-slight chill in the air, what better reason could there possibly be to head indoors? Shot on location by Tony Fong at the Mansions of Gloucester Square B&B. Image courtesy of Priape.

what's where

A TASTE FOR LIFE

11

Toronto restaurateur Heather Mackenzie has the perfect recipe for keeping patrons happy: a strong work ethic and an even stronger sense of play.

WOULD YOU MIND MAKING ROOM?

26

No problem—particularly if you're Winnipeg-based designer Jym Hominick, who applies his magic touch to everything from high-end RVs to custom-crafted "lecture spaces" for the likes of Sarah, Duchess of York.

BALLETICUS REX

8

OK, it's not a *real* Latin name meaning "extraordinarily talented", but it *should be*. *Outlooks* catches up with the divine Mr. Harrington as he prepares for his final tour as a National Ballet principal.

ALL THAT GLITTERS...

20

Is not gold—and Vancouver's silver anniversary Pride celebrations proved to be a priceless experience for all who attended.

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LETTERS

Dear *Outlooks*,

I just wanted to take a moment to congratulate you on the last several years of quality GLBT journalism. There is not one issue that I have not been engaged, educated and entertained... Well Done!

It is impressive to see that so many different viewpoints—social, political, and humorous—can be presented together with such unique flair! Furthermore, you provide a service when you cover The Building of the Barn", and not just "When the Barn Burns to the Ground".

Seeing all of our brothers and sisters from across Canada at some of the many functions is more than impressive and makes our expansive rainbow community seem just a bit closer to home. That so many of the subjects of those photos are attending fundraisers makes it all the sweeter.

Your personal kindness to me, as well as your coverage of events like Gay Bingo, has not gone unnoticed. Neither have the photos that always seem to make me look thinner and younger than I actually am! Two of your staff, David Crosson and Dean Burton, I have known since childhood, and they are like family to me. It gives me personal pride that such a wonderful paper got its start in my hometown of Calgary!

Kudos,

Joan-E

Empress 28 of Vancouver BC

P. S. Am I the only one that gets a kick out of the monthly one-upmanship between the Calgary B&B Ads?!

Sirs,

In the last issue of *Outlooks* [August 2003], I was disappointed and angered to see not one but *two* references to gay divorce in the pages of the magazine. One was prominent in a story featuring lawyers Brian Edy and Julie Lloyd and the other was a quote from Regina's Marlon Hoffman who said "But, I've had seven partners—which means I would have had seven divorces".

I ask you, is this responsible reporting? Should we even be discussing the idea of gay divorce before the celebration over gay marriage has even died down? I know in a previous issue you said that a number of politicians are on the *Outlooks* subscription list—what sort of message is this sending them? I am very upset that you put such a negative "spin" on the same-sex marriage debate so early on; perhaps your misstep is exactly what politicians need to deny us this right.

B. Baker

Lethbridge, AB

The Editor Responds:

I think in place of the word "negative" you may want to use "realistic" when describing the spin we put on gay marriage in our last issue. For the record, the quotes and comments to which you refer were made either by members of the GLBT community and close allies who have proven themselves to be outspoken and tireless champions of our rights.

To think that same-sex marriage would be free from any kind of normal marital strife—or even eventual dissolution—is both naïve and irresponsible. If we are to be viewed as equals, then there is no greater equalizer than the foibles of human nature—gay *or* straight. These factors contribute to the downfall of a marriage; almost equally as often (if we are to believe in a fifty percent divorce rate) they can contribute to the success of same. Bottom line: some people are "the marrying kind" and some people are not. To paraphrase Jeff Goldblum's character in *Jurassic Park*: just because we *can* do something doesn't mean we *should* do it. I believe that one day gays and lesbians all over the world will experience equality through the right to marry—and the right to divorce, should they choose to do so.

WE WANT YOUR LETTERS

Sign your name and include your address and phone number. All letters are subject to editing—and please, no more than 400 words. Write to:
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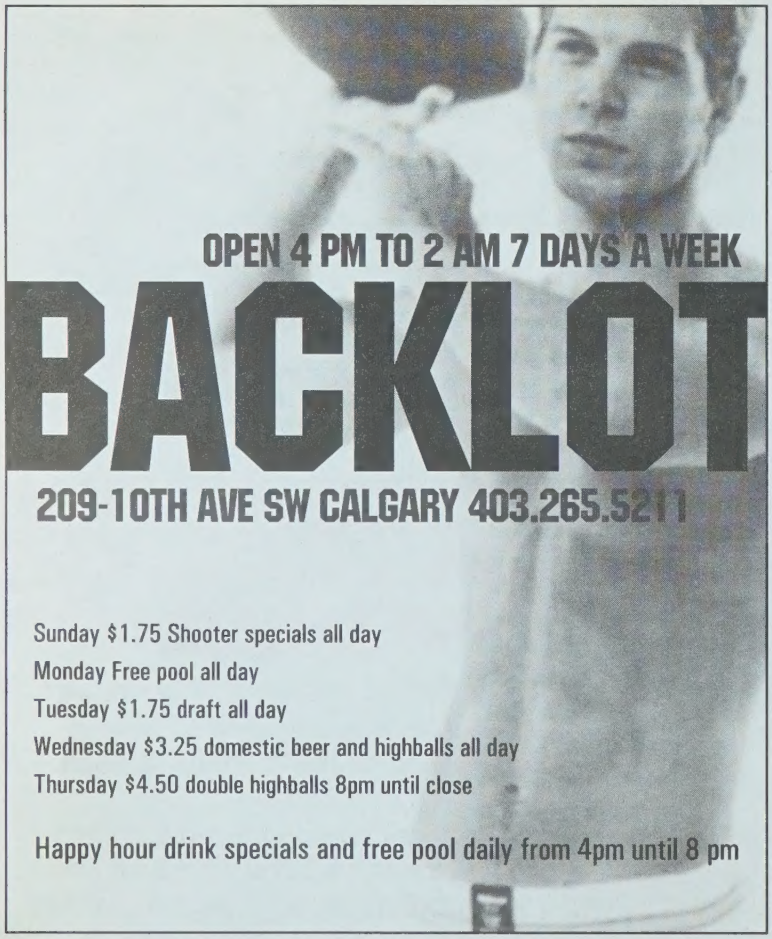

An historic occasion

By Roy Heale

Oh, what a celebration it was, and certainly one befitting a landmark year! The sense of jubilation felt at the 25th anniversary Pride festivities in Vancouver, which took place over the August long weekend, was almost indescribable. People travelled from all across Canada and the United States to help GLBT Vancouverites (and their friends) celebrate this major milestone. It was a perfect weekend in the city for such an event; the skies were clear and blue and the only rainbows visible were those worn, carried and flown by enthusiastic revellers. All along the parade route the crowds were record-breaking, and just as impressive at the Sunset Beach Festival and the Davie Village street fair, which made its debut this year. Many thought the Vancouver Pride Society would have difficulty pulling the event off, particularly given their come-from-behind deficit position, but they did so with aplomb and everyone in attendance was amazed at how the festivities proved to be a first-class celebration of community spirit from beginning to end.

Estimates for the number of spectators have been pegged at around 150,000 and, with over 130 entries in the procession itself, it was a parade full of Pride. Dignitaries from Vancouver included Liberal MP Hedy Fry and Liberal MLA Lorne Mayencourt, NDP MPs Svend Robinson and Libby Davies, and Vancouver Mayor Larry Campbell. Liberal leadership candidate and Heritage Minister Sheila Copps made a special visit from Ottawa in honour of the event, and her presence drew much crowd applause. With thirty-five colourful floats and equally vibrant group entries, the parade was truly a sight to see, a complete entertainment package for those who lined the parade route. The warm weather helped draw record crowds to the Sunset Beach Festival (previous years had been quite a bit soggier!) and the huge crowds that turned out for the premiere street fair proved that something new really can go over in a big way after twenty-five years of history.

Federal Heritage Minister Sheils Copps at the 25th annual Vancouver Pride Parade

"It was a coming together of the community, and that's my sense of what Pride's all about," reflected Vancouver Pride Society Co-chair Shawn Ewing, over a quiet dinner shortly after the event. "There were skeptics, but the team spirit and support made it all possible."

Her VPS Co-chair, Randy Atkinson, agreed. "It definitely exceeded my expectations in terms of the community coming together," he said, savouring a well-earned cocktail. "The energy along the parade route was electric from start to finish and, if we can hold the momentum throughout the coming year, then it will have been a complete success. Pride is not just a day, it's year 'round."

It seemed, at one time, that two of our country's largest and most well-attended Pride celebrations could possibly go by the wayside, considering what initially seemed like insurmountable financial odds. However, Torontonians and Vancouverites pulled together in the spirit of community and made things happen in a way that will inspire us all to take pride in our spirit of Pride celebrations—large and small—for years to come. Vancouver's 25th anniversary, in particular, will in future serve as an important memory for others, a potent reminder of the essence of "lower case" pride: the ability for diversity to equal unity, if only for a fleeting period. To be lucky enough to be in attendance for the silver anniversary of Pride—marked with a particular joy inspired by the advent of gay marriage (for some)—was to witness history in the making. And those who fail to remember history are doomed to repeat it—let's not let the momentum of this amazing year fade from memory any time soon. ▼

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COME HERE OFTEN?

It helps if you think of it as an extreme form of flattery. Recently, adult patrons in Alberta have been caught off guard by stringent identification policies implemented by bars, clubs and restaurants in response to a crackdown by the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission. At issue is a clause being strongly enforced by inspectors for the commission, one which states that business owners must "... request identification from a person who appears to be under twenty-five years of age". Failure to comply with this policy has resulted in heavy fines for business owners—a minimum of $750 or three-day license suspension for a first offense. After multiple infractions the commission is able to revoke an establishment's liquor license, permanently if it so chooses.

Enforcement of this policy has hit many business owners where it counts—in the cash register—and has also had the unfortunate ripple effect of angering and alienating patrons. Bars and clubs in the gay community are in a rather difficult position with this policy, particularly since our cultural emphasis on youth can play a role in confounding the expectations of commission representitives. In some cases, customers in even their late-thirties may be viewed with suspicion because they do not "appear" to be over the age limit for identification, based on an inspector's subjective viewpoint.

Unfortunately, there is little patrons can do about the implementation or enforcement of this policy, and many business owners are too intimidated by the possibility of harassment/loss of livelihood to "make an issue of the issue". At present, the best everyone can do is carry their identification with them at all times, and present it as quickly and cheerfully as possible when asked. Remember: try to think of how flattering it is to be thought of as looking younger than you actually are—please bear with those owners and employees who, in the course of their duties, must ask you for I.D. *Outlooks* will keep readers apprised of new developments as they occur, beginning with an in-depth story on the matter in the October 2003 issue. For more information on the AGLC's policies, or to see a list of businesses that have received fine notices within the province , log on to **www.aglc.gov.ab.ca/board/index.asp**

-By *Outlooks* Staff

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EDITORIAL

Political portents

By John Coulbourn

Considering what the Bible suggests doing with, or to, those who indulge in fortunetelling, it could be considered ill-advised in some circles to offer any prediction whatsoever as to where this whole business of same-sex marriages is going to end.

But I'm prepared to take the chance, for a couple of reasons.

First of all, thanks to the circles I quite happily move in, it seems I've already been consigned to eternal hellfire and damnation—and frankly, the neighbourhood is on the upswing, now that John Paul and the boys have chosen to make it the final resting place for any Catholic who dares to question the infallibility of the Pope. Seems to me, the Pope has just created a whole new class of latter day Galileos to which one of his successors, a few centuries down the line, will have to offer an abject apology.

But that's just a hunch and, as any accountant would no doubt attest after even the most cursory examination of my stock portfolio, my ability to foretell the future should be taken very lightly indeed. Still for what it is worth, when it comes to same-sex marraige, here's what I see when I gaze into my crystal ball.

First off, we aren't going to have to wait to hear the Supreme Court's opinion on the whole thing before it is decided. Once Chretien is out of the way and Paul Martin is installed as the new leader of the Liberal party—and, consequently, as Prime Minister of this country—it should become blindlingly apparent to even the dimmest bulbs in the Liberal caucus that the best thing they can do is suck it up and do the right thing post-haste, thereby putting as much distance between the decision and the next election as is humanly possible.

And just what *will* the right thing be that they choose to do?

Well, that will be to legalize same-sex marriages, of course, this being the Liberal party—a fact that only now seems to be sinking in for some of the party's elected MPs, who frankly are behaving a lot more like closet members of the KKK these days.

Imagine the horror of serving as a Liberal MP for years, only to wake up one morning to discover that your party supports equal rights for all! The horror! *The horror*!

Lest we get all dewey-eyed about Liberal values, however, let's not lose sight of the fact that, by his own admission, Chretien has callously ducked this issue for years, putting polical expediency ahead of what he's known to be right until the very end of his career.

Still, faced with the possibility of forcing their newly elected leader to invoke the constitution's "notwithstanding" clause as one of the first acts of his term, the Liberal caucus will grudgingly pass legislation allowing same-sex couples to wed.

But it won't be the legislation currently under discussion.

Instead, I'm predicting that Canada will end up with a matrimonial model not unlike the French model, in which marriages are, first and foremost, a civil union and a church wedding is merely an add-on after the fact.

As a result, it will become quite possible in Canada to be married without the blessing of the church, but not without the blessing of the state.

And frankly, after the abysmal way most churches have behaved towards gays over the years, it wouldn't hurt my feelings one whit to see churches cut out of the whole marriage equation altogether, but that's not likely to happen in a world where even a lot of gays want to have their loving relationships blessed by the church.

In a largely Catholic country like France that could be highly problematic, but in a multi-denominational culture such as ours, where there are already churches willing, even eager, to bless same-sex unions, it's a perfect solution.

Gay Catholics who find themselves unable to receive the blessings of their church will join divorced Catholics, feminist Catholics, pro-choice Catholics and a veritable host of others in a growing community of frustration. Still, the Catholics and other fundamentalist churches will be able to claim a victory of sorts in all of this, having ensured that gay couples will never be blessed in their particular faith, but it is a Pyrrhic victory at best.

Faced with two marriages, only one of which is legally binding, many heterosexual couples will opt for only the ceremony outside the church, thereby further reducing the slim sliver of relevancy the church can offer in modern life.

And frankly, it'll look good on 'em. ▼

John Coulbourn is a native Albertan who lived for many years in Calgary. He now makes his home in Toronto, where he covers performing arts for the Toronto Sun.

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INTERVIEW

A man for all seasons

By David Crosson

There are worse nicknames you could pick up over the course of a career—Sexy Rexy is his and it's certainly an appropriate one. However, Rex Harrington, a principal dancer for the National Ballet of Canada, has also earned a reputation for being one of the best male dancers of his generation—that one, though a bit clumsy in a headline, is certainly the most appropriate description of both the man and his work. Now, at age forty, Harrington is preparing to step out of the juiciest part of the limelight, leaving principal roles to other dancers in the company. He'll continue to perform with the NBoC, but after two decades "front and centre", he has decided it's time to go out with a bang (like friend Karen Kain) and make one final tour as a principal dancer while he can still dazzle audiences with undeniably brilliant performances. *Outlooks* caught up with Harrington to collect a few thoughts as he was preparing himself for the tour.

Outlooks: Do you enjoy touring or do you find that the stress of being on the road distracts you somewhat?

Harrington: Well, I like coming out west because my family's from Vancouver. It's nice to tour, actually, because we don't do it so much anymore. We used to go east and west. I mean, it is a bit more difficult, working out of hotels and things, but I also find that the audiences are really appreciative, because they haven't really seen us as much.

Outlooks: Tell me a bit about your working relationship with James Kudelka [the National Ballet's Artistic Director].

Harrington: I think every dancer likes that [kind of relationship]; ultimately you want to be choreographed on and be somebody's muse. I think it's equally beneficial for both of us—I've helped him with his vision and he has certainly helped me with my progression. Even stepping down from some of the more full-length classic ballets, he has still created a lot of new works on me: he created his *Nutcracker* on me; I created Rothbart in *Swan Lake*—I've done a lot of work with him. James is an enigma—sometimes he's really difficult to read and other times you don't have to say much, you just know what he wants. It's nice to have that kind of relationship.

Outlooks: Do you still have Timothy Findlay's farm?

Harrington: No... [mock sorrow] I sold it—*don't make me cry*! [Laughs]

Outlooks: Oh, I was going to ask if you're hoping to spend more time there. However, now that I know, what would you like to do with the bit of time that you have freed up with your decision?

Harrington: I'm hoping that I can turn the name that I have in Canada and in Toronto into some sort of acting career. I recently started taking acting lessons, voice [lessons]; I've got an agent and headshots—that sort of thing. If opportunities arise, I'll take them. I've got some friends who are filmmakers—I actually played myself in a little film with a friend, so there are some small things I'm working on.

Outlooks: Are you the sort of person who enjoys having downtime or do you always want—or even *need*—something to do?

Harrington: I don't know—I guess I go bit crazy when I'm not working. Being on stage really is unlike anything else, there's nothing to compare it too. I had a lot of downtime this summer and I think that's why I started obsessing about the fact that I sold my farm. I hadn't thought of it for two years and all of a sudden, it was like "Why did I sell my farm?!" But that's a whole other story—I was involved with someone and it fell apart and I found myself on a farm going, "What the hell am I doing here?". I really just spent the summer sitting around doing nothing for the first time in a long time, which was nice, but at the same time, it drove me nuts!

Outlooks: You have performed for the Queen, delighted audiences around the world with your work, been honoured with the Order of Canada—what's left on your "to do" list, either as a dancer or as Rex Harrington, private citizen?

Harrington: I'd like a star on the Walk of Fame! [Laughs]

Outlooks: Canadian or American—do you want the little one or the big one?

Harrington: I'll take a little one first, then the big one! [Laughs] I'd love to be on television or work in the theatre somehow. I would *love* to be in a movie, you know, somehow get that going. Although, as much as I love it, it scares the s*** out of me 'cause it's a whole other medium. Even when taking acting classes I sweat and get nervous—but I somehow make it through!

Outlooks: Isn't it nice, though, that you don't walk in there and go "I'm Rex Harrington and I can do anything"?

Harrington: Oh, I know [Laughs]. But I think *any* performer's a bit of a nutcase and insecure and that's why they do it—the old cliché.

Outlooks: Any thoughts on the kinds of projects you'd like to do?

Harrington: Well, I've thought about Broadway and I've thought about... um [pauses] If I *have to* earn a paycheque as a coach and a teacher I'll do that, but I'd almost like to walk away from dance and start something else creative. In the little bits of the films I've done, dance-wise, I've loved being on set. I've done a few sort of dance movies with a producer here, an acting-dance-story thing that was told through his vision—"dance dramas" as he calls them—and I'm working on another one. I was actually going to do the lead in his next one, but because of the tour, I can't. But I'm still going to put myself in there as an extra for, like, a minute in one scene just keep my foot in the door.

Outlooks: Who served as a role model for you as you pursued and achieved the career you wanted in dance?

Harrington: My first role model as a dancer was Nureyev—having seen him and having been given his book as a young dancer. The fact that he was gay and so incredibly raw and sexual on stage—I sort of hope that my performances are like that and have a certain fearlessness that appeals to everybody as a human. Hopefully I achieved that.

Outlooks: Would you like to serve as an inspiration for new dancers coming up through the ranks?

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Harrington: Yeah. I talked to James [Kudelka] about that, about coaching some of the men in the company. We don't really have a male coach and I think some things I could really bring out in the men—not in a technical aspect—are partnering tricks, how to present your partner and just sort of stand out. There's much more to walking back and starting your solo than walking back and starting your solo, if you know what I mean. I think that makes the difference between being great and being blah. It is a difficult thing to try to teach—some people have it, they get it, or they don't.

Outlooks: Now, obviously what you excel at is driven by physicality and a certain prowess; nonetheless, did it ever get to you being called Sexy Rexy, being reduced to a physical presence rather than a great talent?

Harrington: No, I think any sort of compliment like that is great—when people *don't* mention you is when you've got to be nervous, I guess! I mean, I certainly traded off on who I am and my looks. In the beginning, I did a lot of work with Glen Tetley and the ballets were all done in unitards—painted unitards—so you were basically naked on stage. They were very sensual and I think I got that reputation from being in those ballets. I think I stood out in the corps when I first started in the company because I had the big hair and the good makeup—and a lot of guys don't even think of that. It's like "*Hello*?! You're *on stage*!" There's a whole way to be a performer and I think I just knew how to do it.

Outlooks: Was it harder turning forty as a dancer or as a gay man?

Harrington: Oh god! I guess it's hard in one sense for *anyone* to turn forty. It's fascinating to me because a huge part of it scares me, but the more I've been through relationships and the more I've realized about myself, the more I think I'm happier with myself. You know, relationships are always tough—especially trying to find a gay man who doesn't think monogamy is a kind of wood! [Laughs] When I was younger it was all about monogamy and love—and as I get older I go "What the f**k is that?! Now I just want anybody!" [Laughs] No, I'm kidding! I mean, as far as the youth factor goes, I'm not big in "the scene", I don't go out all that much—I don't live my life in clubs and bars. You know, you look on the computer [i.e.: chatrooms] and it's like "No one over twenty". What? *Hello*! [Laughs] Hopefully that's going to turn around because I think forty is the new twenty with the way more people take care themselves. I certainly don't feel forty—I still feel twenty-five or thirty, just with greater knowledge. I wouldn't want to be twenty again. I mean, I do hit the gym a lot more and I do yoga—so far, I'm holding up! I think turning forty was difficult but now I'm almost forty-one! It's interesting: I only wish I was younger because physically you can dance longer. That's why acting is fascinating, because you can do it 'til you drop.

Outlooks: What thrills you these days?

Harrington: What thrills me? [Laughs] I love going out to theatre or musical theatre and seeing a really great performance—a great actor or singer. I love being entertained like that. People who can do that thrill me. That and a good bottle of Wolfblass. [Laughs]

Outlooks: Yellow label?

Harrington: Yeah! Yellow label—*mm-hmm*!

Outlooks: Any parting thoughts?

Harrington: Come and see *Four Seasons*—it's the story of my life! [Laughs] Every man's life! James explains it as: you're born, you live, you don't connect and you die alone. [Laughs] Great—that's *charming*!

Outlooks: Well, you make it look good.

Harrington: Ha-if only I could go so beautifully! [Laughs] ▼

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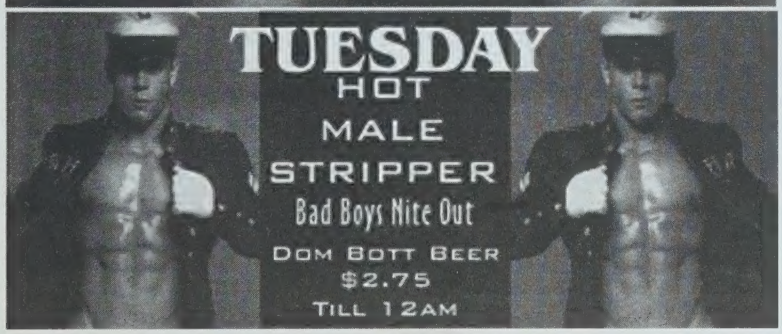

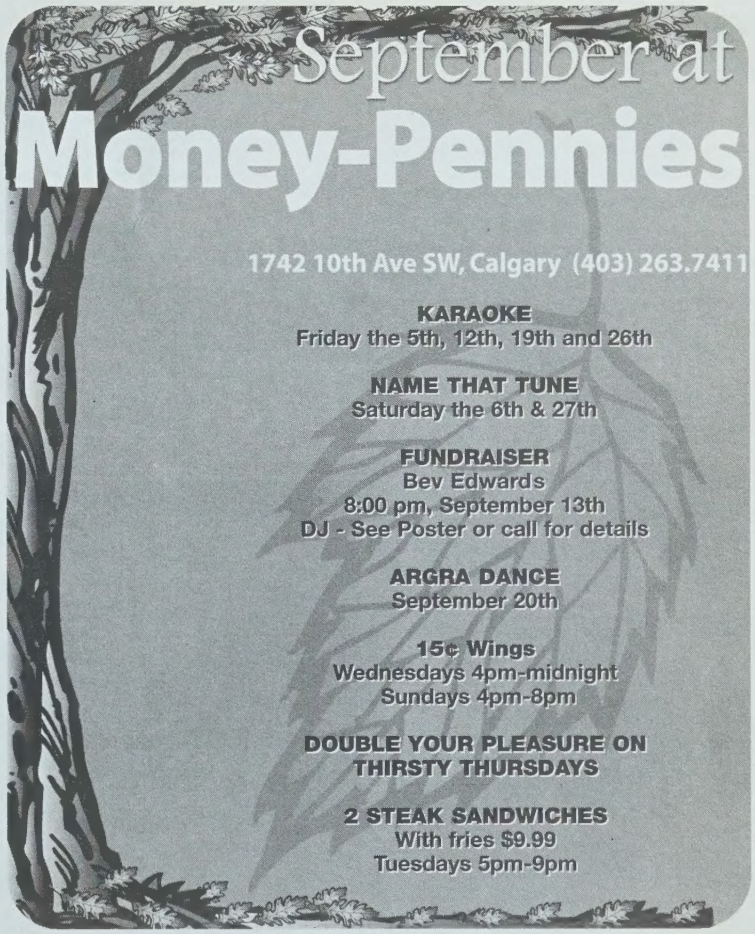

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Reflecting on success

By Rick Matthews

Looking Glass owner Heather Mackenzie with her partner Debra Hyslop

When you're a restaurant owner in the middle of a blackout, it seems only logical that you'd seriously consider closing shop until the power comes back. But if you're Heather Mackenzie, owner of The Looking Glass on Church St, you order more beer, a ton of ice and a couple of propane-powered barbeques.

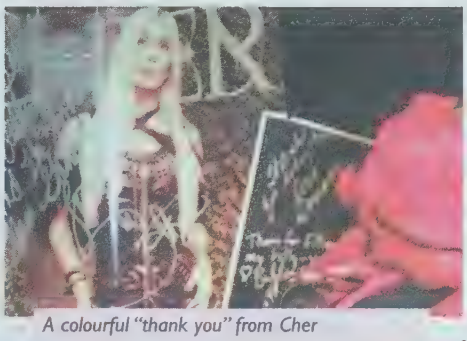
When hotspots like Woody's and Zelda's shut down for the night during Toronto's "darkest hours", The Looking Glass stayed open and the dimly lit patio truly seemed like something out of Alice's Wonderland. The boys and girls were in another world, lulled into giddiness by candlelight and the potential of not having to work the next day.

"I thought about it for ten minutes," says Mackenzie, " and I couldn't think of a reason why we wouldn't stay open!" If anything, the blackout is a prime example of Mackenzie's sense of adventure and a key to her success: she's a woman who aims big and doesn't hesitate to take a leap of faith. Why else would she have left her successful venture as co-owner of Slack Alice, just south of her current location north of Wellesley, to start something new? Mackenzie simply wanted a bigger challenge.

And she definitely went bigger, at least with her initial investment and the size of the new space. Try almost $600,000 in renovations on what was once the home of the Simpson family (as in the department store you may vaguely remember), then throw in a seating capacity of 350, compared to Alice's eighty-five, and add a sincere attempt to cater to the entire queer community just for good measure. For Mackenzie, being a big part of the community is essential and she loves giving back to it.

Mackenzie's restaurant is unique in the Church St. restaurant biz because, unlike most establishments which are eventually labelled as "gay", "lesbian" or "not worth my time", The Looking Glass has managed to establish itself as a place for everyone—including straight clientele. Despite initially being followed by Slack Alice's lesbo-branding, Mackenzie doesn't have time for labels. She is a woman constantly on the move, either busy rearranging furniture to fit the night's agenda, or throwing back the odd tequila with friends who stop by. And some of those "friends" are pretty interesting.

Toronto's Chief of Police, Julian Fantino, had his Pride reception at her restaurant earlier this summer and got the red carpet treatment. "Non-alcoholic drinks, of course!" jokes Mackenzie. The Looking Glass' guest list also includes Bea Arthur, Scott Thompson and, oh yeah, Cher's best friend Doriana Sanchez. While the diva was busy rehearsing for her concert in the nearby Maple Leaf Gardens, Sanchez and the tour's dancing troop were up the street eating and dancing the night away. According to Mackenzie—who sent the dancers back with plenty of food for the singer—The Looking Glass is now "Cher's favourite restaurant in downtown Toronto".



A colourful "thank you" from Cher

You can understand what draws celebs to The Looking Glass. Mackenzie is full of the charisma you'd expect from a restaurant owner. After years in the business she's learned a few networking tricks and hasn't forgotten how to have fun. She recently drove to Maine on a whim. The reason? She "wanted lobster and wanted it fresh". It makes it hard to know just who (or what) the restaurant's slogan "elegant but bent" is referring to; whether gay or straight Mackenzie, along with her partner Debra Hyslop (an item at work and play), know how to make a person feel welcome. They're both always trying to keep the restaurant as fresh as that New England lobster. And the food is pretty damn good too.

"You never know what you're going to get," says Mackenzie. What you'll experience depends on which of the four distinct areas you choose to sit, the time you arrive and the day you come. It could be live jazz, it could be a DJ and dancing, stand-up comedy or a group of queers sharing their life stories during "Storytelling". You might even catch a glimpse of a private ceremony between lovebirds tying the knot as wedding mania sweeps through the community. And if you're really lucky, you might even get a welcoming shot of tequila. ▼

Rick Matthews is a freelance journalist based in Toronto. With the aim of taking a true look at the diversity of the gay community he's done work for Fab and appeared as a guest-host on SoGayTV.

SERVING UP SIN

As fall approaches, so too does a number of "hot in here" events, including BBCM's Black and Blue party in Montreal, the Mr. Leatherman Toronto 2004 competition and Calgary's own Bizarre Ball. Stock for gear to make the night(s) memorable! We think we might be able to help...

(above) STILL LIFE WITH LEATHER
Clockwise from top: leather "master" cap, hand-tooled riding crop, leather and chrome "pig" slave collar and solid chrome covering. Available at the O Emporium in Calgary.

(left) FITS YOU TO A 'T'
Lace-up leather tank and O-ring armbands, available at Priape in Calgary, Toronto and Montreal.

(below) CAMP OUT!
Clockwise from top: white leather bra, Playboy watch cap, pyramid-studded belt, platform cop boot, cyberman shades, pyramid-studded boot and glow-in-the-dark rubber ring collar. All available at Barbie's Shop in Calgary.

(below) HOT BOTTOMS
Low-rise hand leather pants, available at Priape in Calgary, Toronto and Montreal.

(above) SOMETHING BREEZY
Multiple buckle harness in chrome and leather, shown here with 1" leather armbands. Available at Priape in Calgary, Toronto and Montreal.

PRIAPE photos by Terry Fong
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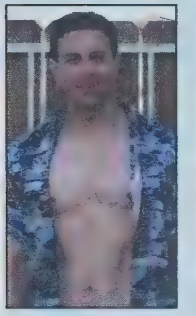
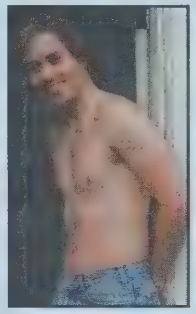
OUTLOOKS reviews

TV

By David Crosson





Steve Elliot Gary Green
Hosts of *ForTheBoys.tv*

It is likely the most *truly* gay thing you'll ever see broadcast on television. Far removed from the corporate considerations of even the most liberal network, *ForTheBoys.tv* is nothing short of a cum-fest extraordinaire—a Web broadcast-cum-television show-cum-call-in radio program, all rolled into one. Co-hosted by ex-lovers Gary Green and Steve Elliot, the show features on-air discussions between the two, supplemented with input from a variety of studio- and phone-in guests, as well as comments from a peanut gallery of "regulars" who flock to the show's chatroom during broadcasts. Though it is almost completely pointless, *ForTheBoys.tv* somehow manages to hit a high note on the amusement scale, if only for the sake of embracing the concept of "commercialized" eavesdropping.

Between hosts and guests, *ForTheBoys.tv*'s "dish" runneth over, and no topic is off-limits or too off-colour to discuss at length, let alone mention. At one point, Green, Elliot and a visitor named Nathan engage in an in-depth discussion as to why Nathan's hunky new roommate reeks of mildew. Another segment involves Green's interaction with an attractive man at the gym, an ongoing flirtation that, it turns out, involved a photo-capable cellphone and a possible "guest appearance" on the Internet. Earth shattering material? Hardly. Fun and rather titillating? You bet!

As co-hosts, both Elliot and Green are deliciously L.A.—the former boasts cheesegrater abs (almost always on display) and an FM voice, while the latter embraces the kind of persona that keeps Falwell awake at night. Despite the fact that they were somewhat unlikely bedfellows in their previous relationship (a matter brought up frequently in conversation), as an on-air team the two are quite fun, working off each other like a pair of seasoned Vaudeville hoofers. Guests, on the other hand, have to be able to hold their own in order to get a word in edgewise—the aforementioned Nathan (he of the fungus-y roommate) demonstrates a remarkable affinity for grabbing airtime throughout his segment, unlike some of the more reserved visitors to the studio.

ForTheBoys.tv isn't all just natter 'n' bitch, mind you—there are other elements thrown in for good measure... if that's how you "measure your good"! In one episode, a musical segment features a singer clad in a "Gay Pimp" T-shirt and sparkly flares, surrounded by semi-clad sports hotties; in another, Green hits the red carpet at the GLAAD awards to chat with everyone from *Will & Grace* star Eric McCormack and *Queer as Folk*'s Peter Paige, to *Who's The Boss?* alum Judith Light. Perhaps one of the funniest "extras" the show offers is a semi-regular feature called Screw the Jew, in which former "goyfriend" Green reads off a list of celebrities to guests and asks whether they'd rather bed them down or have a tumble with co-host Elliot. At one point, after a guest favours "the Jew" over Catherine Zeta-Jones, Green says "I wouldn't have done her before *Chicago*; I wasn't a fan. But after *Chicago* I saw how amazingly talented she was—I'd f***her every which way I possibly could. Every orifice!" The whole concept of the bit is *very* wrong, but wickedly funny on the whole, and Steve Elliot proves to be quite a good sport about things, even when an extra Jew (one of the guests) is thrown into sway the vote away from winning a "magical talking pig". Maybe someone should tell Merv Griffin to add this one to his game show empire...

There are likely quite a few people who'll find *ForTheBoys.tv* too juvenile or unseemly for their tastes, but in overall concept and scope, most will have to admit that Green and Elliot are definitely on a fresh track in terms of re-defining gay multimedia endeavours. Even shock jock Howard Stern's harshest critics had to give him credit for what they admitted was "an admirable nimbleness at the mic", and the *ForTheBoys* boys are close relatives to the King of all Media in this regard. Both are capable broadcasters with the impressive ability to keep the ball in the air no matter what is going on around them. And, trust me, there is *a lot* going on around them at any given time. If you want to get in on the action, tune in to PrideVision TV Saturday nights at 8 p.m. PT/11 p.m. ET or log on to the show's site (**www.fortheboys.tv**) and click the "please join us in chat" link to play with Elliot and Green live Wednesday and Sunday nights at 8 p.m. PT/11 p.m. ET. PrideVision also airs an "encore" broadcast of the show Monday nights at 9 p.m. PT/midnight ET.

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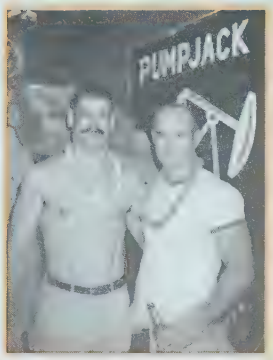


(above) One of these things is not like the other...
C'mon Chris, take off your shirt—Rob won't mind!

(below) Sand, Surf and... Fur?
Peter and Carl, photographed just after getting lei'd.

Harley Davidson 100th Birthday party
PUMPJACK

(left) You Like the Headlights on This Model, Dontcha?!
Bird gets cheeky—er, *boobie*, for the camera.

(left) Hog Wild
(from left) Michael, Bird and Harvey pose with the "guest of honour".

BCBears Pride Recovery Brunch
OASIS

(above) Forget the Berries and Grubs...
Real bears eat Eggs Benedict!

(right) Still Lookin' Good!
Doug and Sam appear to be remarkably fresh after the festive frenzy of Pride 2003.

Kim Kuzma Performance
PUMPJACK

(left) Take *That*, Drag Queens
Kim Kuzma, doin' what comes naturally for an appreciative crowd.

Planning an event in Vancouver? Contact Barry at (604) 685-1377 and he'll see about covering it in Out & About. Photos By: Barry Piersdorff.

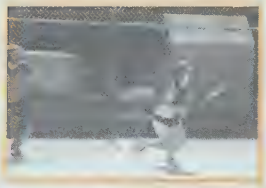
(right) Assuming the Mantle
Newly crowned Chief Stormy Sunshine and Katrina Wildfyre Bear stand to receive their honours.

Greater Vancouver Cultural Society Passing of the Legacy
STANLEY PARK PAVILLION

(above) Admire the Panel-ing
Ted Northe and Jamie Lee Hamilton on hand to help out with the proceedings.

(left) What a Year!
Jeffrey Bear poses with his award for Native Entertainer of the Year and NativeCitizen of the Year.

WESA & Mabel League All-star Game



(above)We Hope That's a Bat... Or Do We?
A bit of diamond action on a sunny afternoon. Funny, you'd think J-Lo'd be around...

(left) Buy Me Some Peanuts and CRACK-erjack...
Out for a bit of air on a lovely Vancouver day.

Offshore Drilling
COAST PLAZA HOTEL

(right) Bale-ing Out for a Rest
Taking a breather from the dancefloor are (clockwise) Ren, Russ, Rob and Stu

(left) Drills Spin; So Do DJs... Coincidence?
DJ Tracy D keeps everything going full force at Offshore Drilling after the Pride parade.

(right) Offshore and Off the Floor
Michael, Robert and Rick drink in the ambience around them... why is Rick the only one with a drink?

Anti-Gay Marriage Protest
VANCOUVER COURTHOUSE

(above)With Svends Like this...
You can take on all enemies. The unflaggingly active Mr. Robinson, doing what he does best

(left)Proud Crowd
Turning out in force to send a resounding message to the assembled bigots.

(left) Ain't *That* the Truth?!
Hang in there, honey—one day that white gown *will* be yours!

(above) Bride's Side of the Barrier or Groom's?
Little Sister's Janine Fuller, on the side of equality, for what it's worth.

A failing grade?

By Gerard MacMullin

The B.C. provincial government admits bullying is a serious problem, but despite promises to stop the violence, little has changed as the new school year begins. Critics say a series of recommendations from a provincial task force on safe schools fails to go far enough to protect students battered by an onslaught of homophobic taunts and assaults.

"I think the comment about students dreading to return to school is completely accurate. School is the most unsafe place for GLTB youth in their lives," says James Chamberlain, a Surrey schoolteacher, and member of the Gay and Lesbian Educators of B.C.

"School is a very hateful place for many, *many* GLBT youth and, until there are concrete strategies and actions from the Ministry of Education and school boards, that trend will just continue," he adds.

Three of the province's highest profile bullying tragedies—suicide victims Hamid Nastoh of Surrey, Dawn Marie Wesly of Maple Ridge, and Jamie Lazarre of Prince George—may be just the tip of the iceberg. The Education Department's own surveys reveal that almost three in ten students have been bullied, and a similar number feel unsafe in their own schools.

The three-member provincial task force on safe schools—chaired by Vancouver Burrard MLA Lorne Mayencourt—heard horror stories from presenters in fifteen cities and towns all across the province. Some of the victims of homophobic taunts and assaults were actually straight, but perceived to be gay.

"Any student can be the target of homophobia and anti-gay slurs… a lot needs to be done to protect all students irrespective of the sexual orientation," Chamberlain says.

Chamberlain cites the case of heterosexual student Azmi Jubran who launched a human rights action against the North Vancouver School District for failure to protect him from bullies. Jubran, a heterosexual, was physically assaulted and harassed for years as a "homo" and a "faggot". The school board appealed Jubran's $4,000 award and the decision was overturned.

"The North Van school board basically defended themselves by saying it's just common, everyday language, and that it didn't relate to his sexual orientation because he was straight," Chamberlain says.

Terms like "fag" and "homo" are popular put downs among children of all ages.

"There needs to be leadership at the very top levels of school districts and the ministry so that teachers and parents and students all across the province know that anti-gay slurs and homophobic actions in schools are equally detestable to racial slurs," Chamberlain stresses. "Until that message is clear, things are going to change very slowly."

The task force admits change is needed now. It clearly states that gay students face "harassment and intimidation that [makes] their schooling difficult. Many gay and lesbian youth told us that they dreaded coming to school."

Mayencourt believes the situation will change.

"We need to know what's causing those kids to feel unsafe, and what's causing their parents to feel they're unsafe sending their kids into the school system. We *do* know that bullying exists in virtually every school, and we know that some schools are making great progress on it but others are not addressing it effectively," he told *Outlooks* in an earlier interview. "We're looking for a system in which people who are different are respected and honoured regardless of the colour of their skin, their sexual orientation."

But the fact that we're nowhere near that point is well documented in the safe schools report. It notes that many children live in fear of what faces them when they arrive at school every day. Their focus is not on learning, but making it through to the final bell. It also acknowledges that, while the extreme cases are well reported, many other students suffer in silence.

Critics cite the biggest disappointment as a failure to provide the strong "top-down" leadership Chamberlain and others say is needed to stamp out the culture of homophobia. One of the guiding principles of the task force was to respect the autonomy of local school boards—but that very principle could be a big part of the problem.

Without strong provincial standards, conditions will vary across the province. Already a patchwork of policies is developing, with cities like Vancouver and Victoria taking the lead to battle racism and homophobia in the classroom, and some rural areas insisting there are no gay students in their classrooms.

Some school trustees just can't deal with the gay factor. That fact was documented three years ago in an auditor-general's report warning that discrimination based on sexual orientation was being ignored because the topic made staff uncomfortable. That report said "school districts should provide teachers with suitable guidance for encouraging tolerance and respect for students of same-sex orientation." That simply hasn't happened.

"If they've got issues with homophobia, then they'll have to develop programs for that. The issue here is making a firm statement that harassment, bullying, intimidation is not an acceptable behaviour on the part of anyone in British Columbia," says Mayencourt.

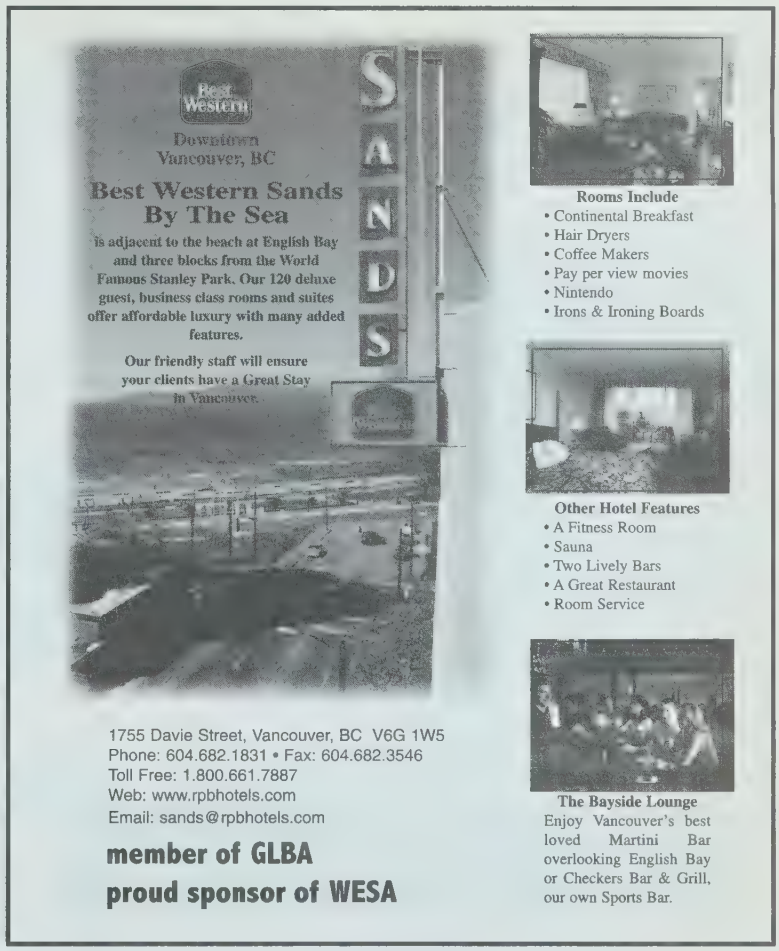
"Local school boards do have autonomy, but they do need to very clearly mandate positive information about… GLBT people and students in schools, because they hear the slurs and the put downs all the time, and with no positive information in curricula there's nothing to counter the hate," Chamberlain says.

The Vancouver School Board is seen as one of the most progressive, implementing sweeping reforms to make clear that anti-gay harassment will not be tolerated. The three major objectives include an anti-harassment policy, a committee to monitor safety issues for gay students, and adding sexual orientation to code of conduct guidelines. Much of the groundwork for the reform was laid by Out Reach, a coalition of community groups including the Gay and Lesbian Educators of BC, GAB Youth Services, YouthCo, ASIA, and P-Flag.

Chamberlain says it's up to the gay community and straight allies to keep pressuring the province to adopt a similar plan of attack.

"Otherwise I can foresee, down the road, that students whether they're straight or gay will enter into lawsuits against school boards for failing to protect them," Chamberlain concludes. ▼

Gerard MacMullin is a writer/broadcaster who lives in Vancouver's West End.



The issue of acceptance

By Lorne Bradley

As the Supreme Court reviews the constitutionality of a bill to nationalize the recognition of same-sex marriages, public debate on the issue is beginning to heat up from coast to coast. The battle for support is raging as church leaders and ultra-conservative groups come head to head with politicians and gay advocacy organizations.

As the third country to recognize same-sex marriages (by court order, for now), Canada is leading the world in terms of equality, prompting debate all across the globe, most notably in the United States. Unfortunately, public support in that country appears to be headed in a negative direction. George W. Bush was quick to oppose gay equality when he called gays "sinners" and stated that the White House's pack of lawyers was busy figuring out a way to federally codify the traditional definition of marriage. Unfortunately, it seems that more and more Americans agree with the Commander in Chief: a recent poll found that support for legalizing gay marriage has plummeted since the United States Supreme Court declared sodomy laws unconstitutional.

Where is this anti-equality backlash coming from? In the midst of all that is being said (and preached) in this international debate, the volume of completely ridiculous arguments and the pressure tactics successfully employed to make gay marriage appear threatening to contemporary society never ceases to amaze.

On a recent flight to Toronto, a flight attendant walked down the aisle asking, "*Globe* or *Post*?" With a notable difference in journalistic integrity between the two (one has it, one doesn't), I instinctively ask for a copy of *The Globe and Mail*. Looking down at the stack she proclaimed, "Sorry, only *Post* left." With more than three hours of flying ahead, I decided to take the paper and enjoy a few laughs at the conservative opinion articles labelled as news. Not surprisingly, there were two pieces about gay marriage: one about how many people are completely incensed over the concept, and the other an outrageous piece by Andy Lamey entitled "Why Everyone Should Be Able To Marry Anyone". In the piece, Lamey argued that gay marriage will open the door to marriages of all sorts imaginable, specifically the marriages of multiple partners. How? He claims that equality arguments successfully used by homosexuals could in turn be used by any fringe group desiring access to the institution of marriage. Of course, the logic in his reasoning is flawed because he refuses to address the fact that the concept of marriage in this country has always been between two people. All of the court rulings have defined marriage, at its core, as the union of two to the exclusion of all others (the sex of the partners was not considered a basic premise). Therefore, arguments attempting to change the fundamental concept of the institution (to include more than two) would be infinitely more challenging.

But there's always a backup plan—if you don't fall for the scare-mongering tactics, you might be persuaded by your religious convictions. Conservative religious denominations are banding together in their opposition of same-sex marriage and have been intensely lobbying Parliament Hill. They oppose changing the definition on moral grounds, claiming that the mere existence of legally married same-sex couples would decay and ultimately destroy the concept of family. The Pope has waded into the debate, issuing a discussion paper claiming that gay parents cause their children violence, and describing gay marriage as "evil."

These two types of techniques employed to rally public support against the bill to nationalize gay marriage have already experienced significant success. Vocal constituents have been busy phoning, faxing and e-mailing their members of parliament. The result? A majority of Ontario Liberal MPs polled by the Toronto Star are intending to vote against the bill. In addition, the Supreme Court will not accelerate its constitutional review of the concept, leaving the job of guiding this critical piece of legislation through the House of Commons to the next Liberal leader. Paul Martin, who is widely expected to become the next prime minister, has expressed some level of discomfort with the issue. Adding fuel to the opponents' fire is the outright refusal to recognize any same-sex marriages by the Province of Alberta. All of the other provinces and the territories are committed to administering federal law relating to marriage, except for the Klein government's Justice Minister Dave Hancock, who is ardently dedicated to wasting the province's time and money chasing an issue that is a certain defeat in the courts.

However, it is encouraging to see gay youth becoming involved in this debate, taking on those fighting against equality. Clint Ball, a nineteen-year-old gay youth from Alberta, has actively campaigned for gay marriage. "I really want the whole wedding thing for myself someday, I definitely think it is something that I would do." He has written letters to his member of parliament and

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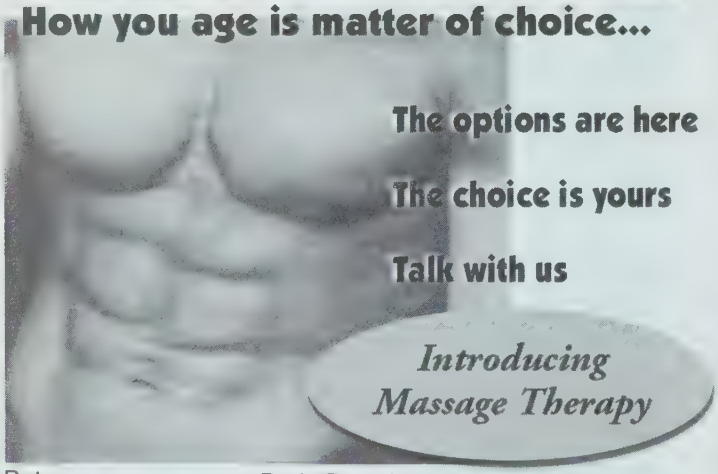

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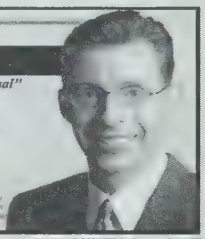

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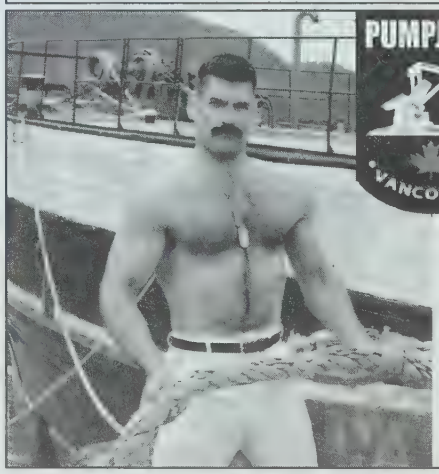

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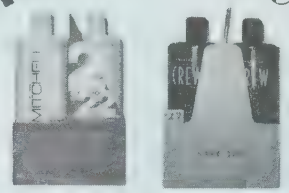
from previous to the minister of justice expressing support for nationalizing gay marriage. "Young people should write their government representatives to express their opinions about gay marriage. It is important, because as a community, we need to stand together," Ball exhorts.

Gay marriage will ultimately serve to normalize the relations between gay and lesbian communities and the heterosexual world. The level of animosity will be significantly reduced over time, as the public becomes accustomed to same-sex relationships. One of the most significant advantages to gay marriage is that it will promote awareness of gay and lesbian issues without the "in your face" attitude commonly associated with minority groups struggling for equality. Youth will grow up with the concept that both opposite-sex and same-sex partners are "normal", creating a far more progressive and inclusive generation. As gays and lesbians achieve full equality, is it even possible that sexual labels may cease to exist altogether, as prophesied in Bert Archer's *The End of Gay*?

It is clear that even with all of the recent achievements in gay and lesbian equality, we must not become complacent with our significant court victories. The battle over equal rights is presently focused on the bill to nationalize gay marriage, and we cannot afford to remain silent at such a critical time. But even political victories can be hollow, as real success is measured by the level of equality that exists in people's hearts and minds. Achieving parity with our neighbours, friends and families is the most important goal of all. I recently asked my mother if she would ever attend my same-sex wedding. "Probably not," was her response, demonstrating firsthand that, while a court-ordered marriage may guarantee legal status and recognition, it cannot guarantee acceptance. ▼

Lorne Bradley is 21 years old, and holds a Bachelor of Science degree. He works as the Director of Communications for an international humanitarian organization. You can e-mail Lorne at lornebradley@telus.net.

THE BARBER SHOP



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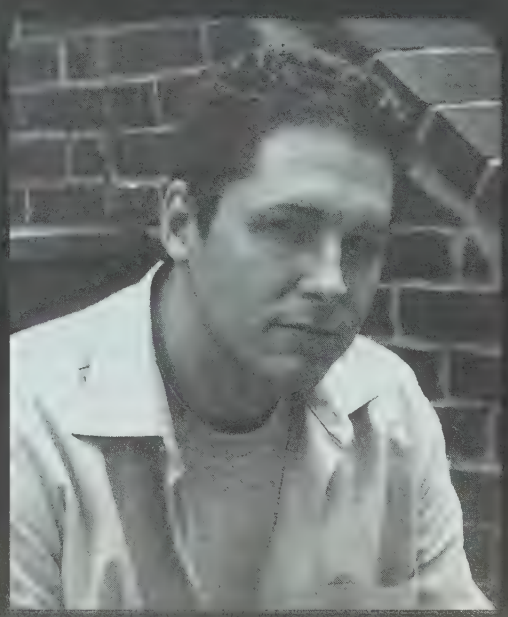


Divers-Cite Pride Parade

(above) Prints Charming
A representitive of *Fugues* magazine, "floats" above the crowd with Pride.

(right) Two-step to the 100th Power?
Club Bolo members strut their stuff western-style for the crowd along the parade route.

(left) A Reason to Smile
Olympic Gold Medalist Mark Tewksbury, Honourary Co-president of Gay Games 2006, feeds off the energy of the crowd.

All photos on this page by Brad Malmberg

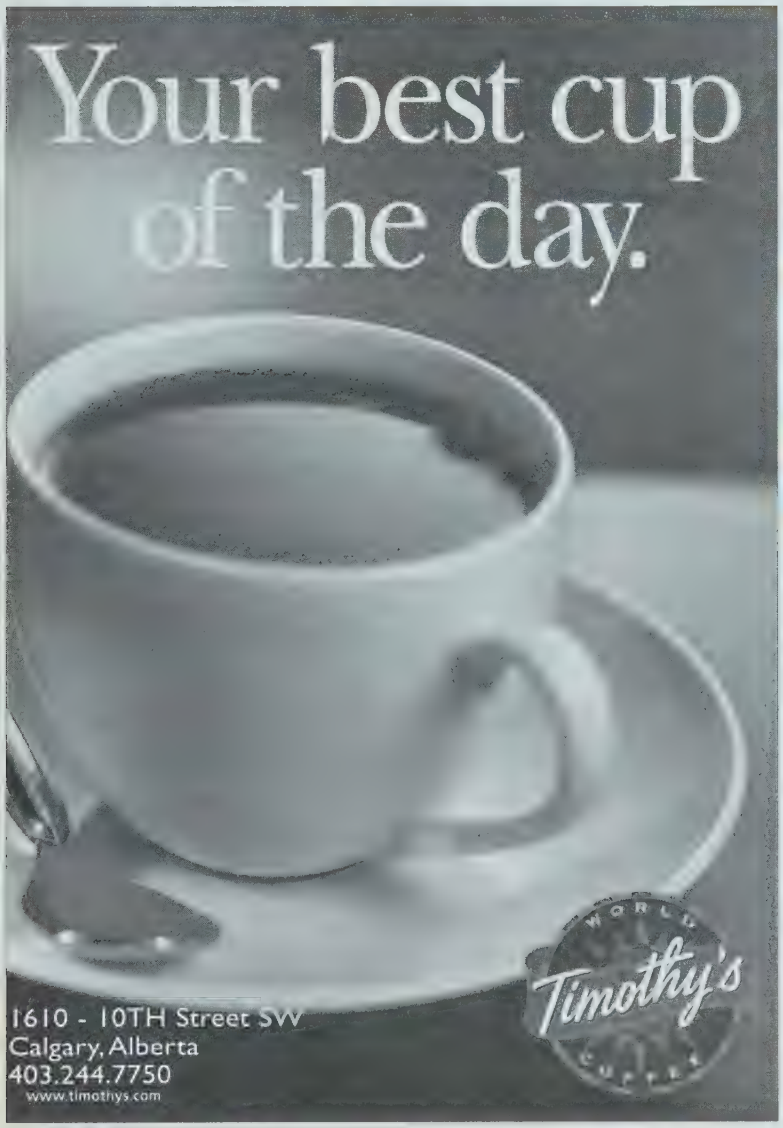
(left) O, Lord... Or Is That "Lady"?
A festively attired dandy makes the most of a happy occasion.

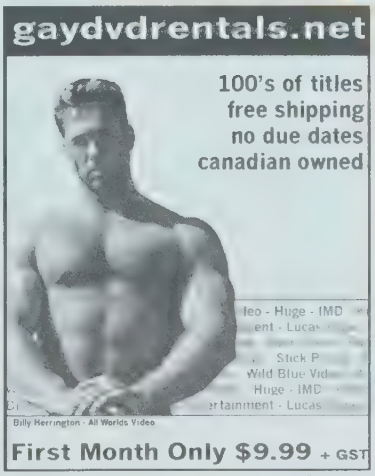
(left and above) A GLAM-ourous Occasion
Members of gay and Lesbian Asians of Montréal strip down and show it off in the name of Pride

(right) Bird of Paradise
A whole lot of fabulous goin' on—even if it *is* Tippi Hedren's worst nightmare!

(above)Oy Gay!
Members of Feygeleh, Montréal's Jewish gay and lesbian community.

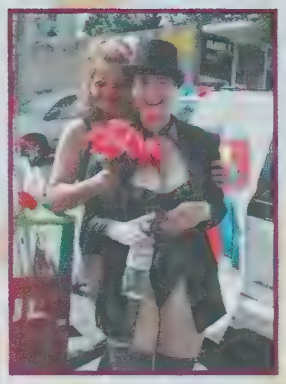
(left) *Cuir* As Folk
Members of the Cuir Montréal leather group, shakin' it up for the crowd and cameras





(below) In Fine Form
Participants looking the picture of health on the float for Serozero, a Montréal-based AIDS organization.

(left) New Democratic (Pride) Party
NDP MLAs Svend Robinson and Libby Davies, doin "the wave" for Pride.

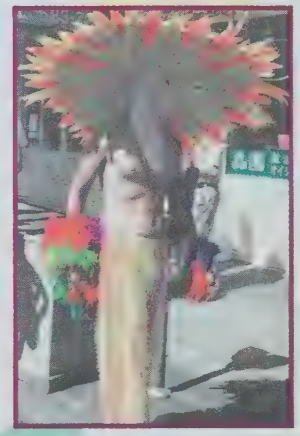


(right) Boobs 'n' Blooms
What could be *more* lovely on a hot summer day?!

(below) Broadcasting Their Support
The CBC's parade entry.

(below) Purple Print
Vancouver community paper *Xtra West!* celebrates an anniversary of its own.

(below) And You Thought They Only Did Slurpees Well...
A colourful entry from everyone's favourite "after-hours", 7-11



(above) Back-up Sunshine?
Thankfully, Pride 2003 didn't need it—although we're glad you showed up, anyway!

(above) Belles and Whistles
In celebration of the B.C. government's good sense

(left) Royal Wave
I think somebody could teach Liz a thing or two about glam-ing it up!

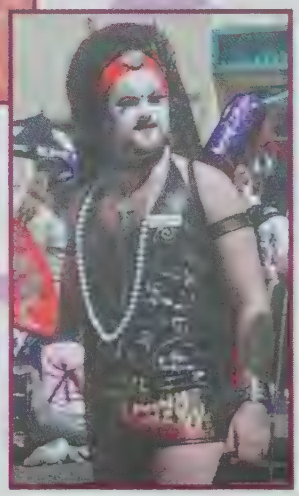
(below) No way—The Bay is Gay?!
Well, not necessarily... but they seem to like *us*!

(left) We Hear ya!
At least *they've* got an excuse... what the hell is wrong with the religious right?!

(left) Makes You Hungry for Black Licorice, Don't It?
Hot weather, hot leather at Pride 2003.

(left and above)Rainbow Connection
Gayway and the Odyssey know how to do it up right when it comes to conquering colour.

(right) A Good Habit? Nope—A *Great* One!
A Sister of Perpetual Indulgence indulges the crowd with a bit of hard-edged glamour.



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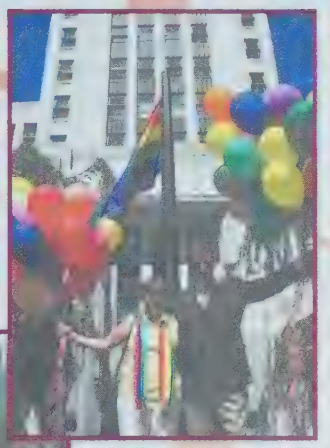
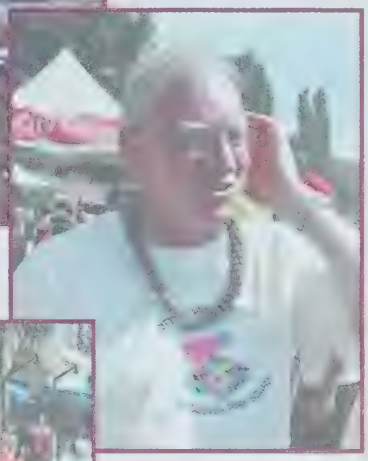
(right) I Love How That Blush Looks on You!
Liberal MP for Vancouver Centre, Dr. Hedy Fry, swaps a few beauty tips with a comely queen.



(below) Civic Pride
Vancouver City Councillors Ellen Woodsworth and Tim Stevenson hoist the rainbow flag at City Hall.

(left) General, They've Taken the Beach!
The "lavender invasion" at the Sunset Beach Festival.



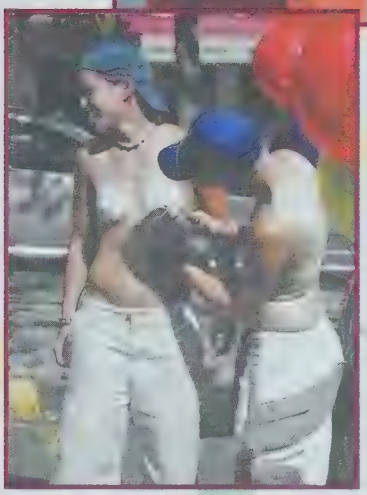
(below right) First Nations Finery
Looking hot—and cool—at Pride 2003.

(left) Reagan Red? Heaven Forbid!
It's Ted Northe, Empress I of Canada, in the first hue of our community rainbow.

(left) Bike Babe
Ready to roll in the name of Pride.

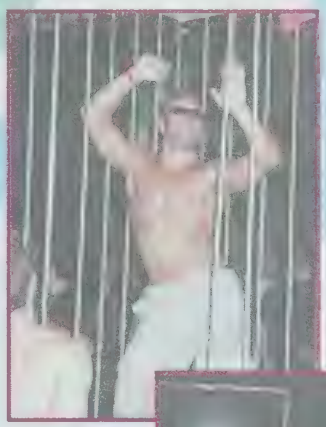
(above) Is That It? I Wanna Do It Again!
Vancouver Mayor, His Worship Larry Campbell, mingles with the crowd after his first stint as a parade participant.

BUILDING PRIDE



(above) Just Don't Swing a Bat at Them!
Do those count as softballs or hardballs?

(left) It *Makes* a Village...
Obviously the first-ever Davie Village Fair was a good idea—talk about standing room only!

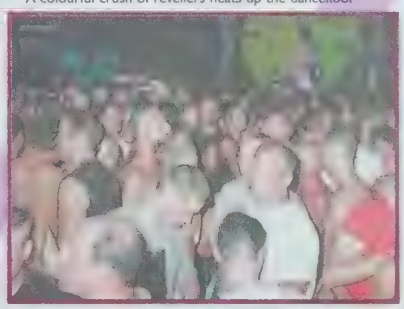


(left) Caged Heat
Stoking up a disco/techno/house inferno at the VPS Pride Ball

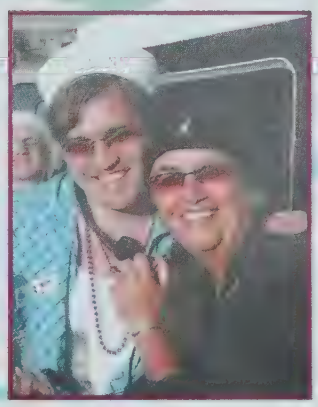
(right) Camp-oflage
Willie Taylor and Mandy Kamp do their best to blend in with the crowd aboard the MV Britannia prior to their big show.

(below) Triple Threat
The ever-delish Carlotta Gurl, flanked by Gayvan.com's Angus Praught and Daichan Nakagawa at the ball

(above) Taking In Some Sea Air
VPS Co-chair Shawn Ewing takes a much-deserved breather on a CruiseyT excursion.



(below) Body Count
A colourful crush of revellers heats up the dancefloor



(right) Hi Beams
CruiseyT's James Steck doffs his headset to hug Vancouver diva Barb Snelgrove aboard the MV Britannia.

The end of the summer can bring happy endings to all unresolved issues, so let's welcome September and its harvest moon. Mercury, Pluto and Mars will change course as Venus and the Sun amble into lovely Libra. Is it possible to have *too* much of a good thing? Oh, why not try?!

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

The greatest challenge you'll face this September is the balance between work and your sense of personal satisfaction. Perhaps you feel that what you do is not in sync with who you are—that may in fact be true, gay Ram, but don't toss out the paycheque with the ideal. Pluto will come to the rescue with a much-needed escape to refresh and recharge. Don't forget to pack the batteries!

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Before you cross some of your dearest compadres off your party list, remember that everyone is entitled to an opinion, even if it differs from yours. Proud Bulls may feel that friends and social obligations are holding them back from true divahood. Thankfully, September will teach you the difference between anchors and dead weights. Be sure to ask the right seaman…

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

If you feel a push-me-pull-you energy this September, chalk it up to the fierce planetary battle of hearts and minds with these redirecting planets. Pink Twins will not seem to please both employers and family and, just as you cannot dance at two parties with only one tush, it is unfair to expect you to please all the people all the time. Please yourself and the believers will follow.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

If queer Crabs shout in the forest and there is no one around to hear, have they really made a noise? Hell *yes*, darling! September is the month to make yourself heard loud, proud and queer, even if you think no one is listening. Not only will you be fanning the air, you will make a tsunami. Walk the gangplank and blow a few mastheads down—ahoy, matey!

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

The challenge this September will be to balance your own money with "other peoples money". Redirecting planets will focus on your finances and what you truly value in life. Does that mean that only money can buy happiness, proud Lion? Not necessarily... but it certainly can buy tubloads full of expensive champagne and lurid party weekends in gay Paree.

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

Life will be a balancing act this September as you begin to feel more in control of your life and become more energized to try new things. Don't let partners hold you back from tackling the unknown. Gay Virgos are not usually the pioneering type, but the planets will be sending you on an expedition, alone if necessary. But you will discover many new acquaintances on the way…

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

Your intuition will be right on target this September as a Pride parade of planets Yin and Yang their way between the practical and the ephemeral. Rub your crystal ball, gay Libra, and see where the spirits spirit you. Just don't abandon your more down-to-earth obligations: the cosmic flow can take you to the trash heap as easily as the top drawer. But maybe you are *into* trash?

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

What becomes a legend most? Some say it is the company you keep. Others say it is the interests you enjoy. September will bring you a series of choices—are you self-made or a product of your social environment, gay Scorp? The real test will come when redirecting planets force a standoff between what you and your pals want to do. Will you graze with the herd or munch on your own?

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

Proud Archers can become superstars this September as their talents parlay into bonafide corporate success when Mars, Mercury and Pluto redirect . But, somehow, your partner will be decidedly unimpressed. Will you be pressured into compromising your gains for their selfish purposes? Some say that it's lonely at the top, but try seeing life from the bottom...

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

Pack your bags and set sail this September. Pink Caps crave the open frontier and will want to make a global splash. Thankfully, there will be a rush of redirecting planets that can speed you along and even help pay for your ticket. Are you packing too many big ideas in your knapsack? Who cares! Make your opinions known and there will be someone to help you carry the rainbow flag.

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

Everyone and everything has its price. This September, you will have to decide if the price for one particular sexy bauble is simply too high. All these redirecting planets will have you questioning the value of the company you "upkeep" and the rising price of adoration. Are you simply a well-endowed benefactor, Aqueerius? I guess the situation could be worse…

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

There are those rare instances where your opinion is simply not as compelling as your partner's, and September and its redirecting planets will provide several examples of those instances. Guppies would do well to heed others' advice before taking a certain new course of action. Those who love you, warts and all, have your best interests at heart and will hold you up to the mirror. Uh oh.

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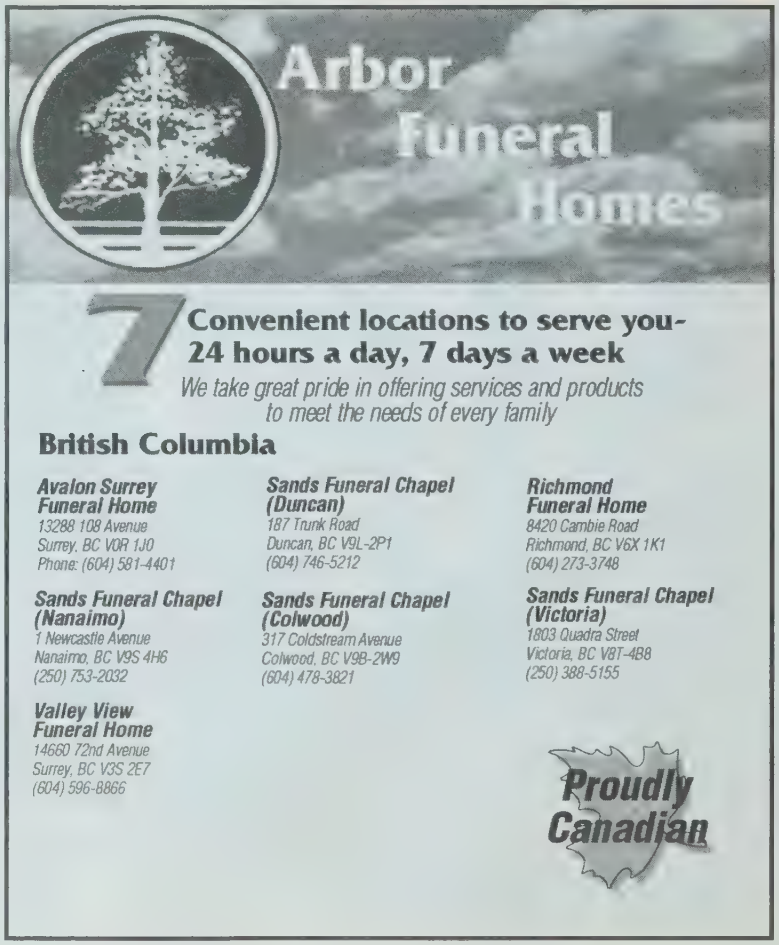
Barry Alan Hawrelak

April 7, 1960 - September 22, 1993

In loving memory of my life partner and best friend Barry Alan Hawrelak who passed away on September 22, 1993.

There weren't words to express the impact of losing Barry 10 years ago and there still aren't. As his partner I lost the one person who I truly trusted and loved unconditionally. He filled my life with excitement, dreams, laughter, possibilities, acceptance and contentment and my heart with love. Barry's mother and father lost a son who had grown into a wonderful man who adored them deeply. Barry's sister lost her brother, best friend and confidant. His friends and coworkers knew him as a caring soul who always had time to listen to them and would do anything for them. Barry touched each of us in a different way and left footprints in our lives and hearts that will never be washed away by time. Whether he was downhill skiing, traveling, at the lake, working or spending time with family and friends, he lived big and loud and there was always laughter when he was in the room. Barry is truly missed but he lives on in our memories where he is smiling and laughing and his eyes are sparkling with a little bit of mischief.

I'll miss you always, Love, Grant.



Pork futures

By Michael Wright

Gotta get my pig! That's the cry heard throughout Calgary—and this year's theme—as Small Change…Big Changes brings back the cherished chubby piggy to the 2003 fundraising campaign.

Inspired by Lorne and Sherrie MacRae and a group of volunteers in 1994, Small Change…Big Changes began when the two realized that there was a lack of funding for particular challenges faced by persons affected by HIV/AIDS. At that time, the Calgary Health Region's Southern Alberta Clinic was in its relatively early years of development, and funds were required for various needs that were not typically covered by the usual health care sources. It became clear to members of the initial committee that emergency funds were required for dental care, prescription drugs, housing and patient care, as well as monies for AIDS research and education.

The concept was simple: throw a party to launch the fundraising campaign at which a ceramic piggy bank is purchased, ask the participants to "feed" their piggies with cash and bring it back to a final gala event two months later, to celebrate with fellow contributors the return of the pecuniously-plumped pigs. In order to minimize costs for both the launch and gala events, donations of space, food and beverages were sought from a vast number of sponsors, and the gala featured an art auction and entertainment. Over the years, the format has remained roughly the same, and Small Change…Big Changes has raised nearly $600,000 to contribute to the Southern Alberta Clinic, the Lorne MacRae Research Fund, and the relatively new SCBC Endowment Fund managed by the Calgary Health Trust.

Although the piggy banks were not available for the event last year, due to an overwhelming number of requests from patrons, they're back again this year.

Launch chair Dave Gowryluk has secured Divino's restaurant in its new location on "restaurant row" as the site of the launch, which will take place on Monday, September 15, from 5 through 8 p. m. "The idea is to hold the launch event downtown so that people can drop by on their way home from work, enjoy a cocktail and an *hors d'oeuvre* and, of course, purchase their pig," says Gowryluk.

Wade Cuthbertson and Sherrie MacRae, of Small Change...Big Changes, with a herd of needy piggies

While in previous years the pigs were all one colour, with a different feature colour each year, the 2003 campaign will feature pigs in a rainbow selection of colours including blue, green, aubergine, yellow, turquoise and pink. Each pig, which includes an admission ticket to the gala, costs $25.00 and the idea is to fill your piggy with as many toonies and bills as you can between the launch and the Gala event on November 15.

"If people write a cheque for their piggy contents, they will get a tax receipt for a portion of their contribution—over a certain amount—issued through the Calgary Health Trust," says Wade Cuthbertson, financial officer for the event. People are encouraged to come early to the launch, as there are only 400 piggies available for purchase this year, and the organizers expect to be completely sold out of piggy banks by the end of the evening.

Small Change…Big Changes 2003 has a fundraising goal of $50,000. "In addition to replenishing the funds for the Southern Alberta Clinic, the Lorne MacRae Research Fund, and the SCBC Endowment Fund, we plan to purchase ten new hospital bed mattresses, covers and linens for the beds at Beswick House—a hospice for AIDS affected persons," says Sherrie MacRae, co-founder of the event and current chair of the Small Change…Big Changes committee.

With the success of last year's Gala at the University of Calgary's Rozsa Centre, the committee decided to return to that venue. "We really like the idea of having a short program in the theatre. It allows us to speak directly to our donors about the current needs and financial goals of the campaign," explains MacRae. "When we hear stories of the experiences of the patients and those working in AIDS-related areas, it lends immediacy to the event. As well, the entertainment we present as part of that program gives the audience a chance to get into the party mood before they go out into the gala reception and silent auction.

"The important thing is to buy your pig early, as there are obviously a limited number of seats in the theatre, and we can only sell to capacity. We're expecting the piggies for this year's event will sell very quickly," she continues. ▼

SMALL CHANGE...BIG CHANGES 2003 VITAL INFORMATION:

Launch Party: Monday, September 15

5 - 8 p. m. at Divino's Restaurant, 113 Stephen Avenue S.W.

Purchase your pig and gala ticket for $25.00

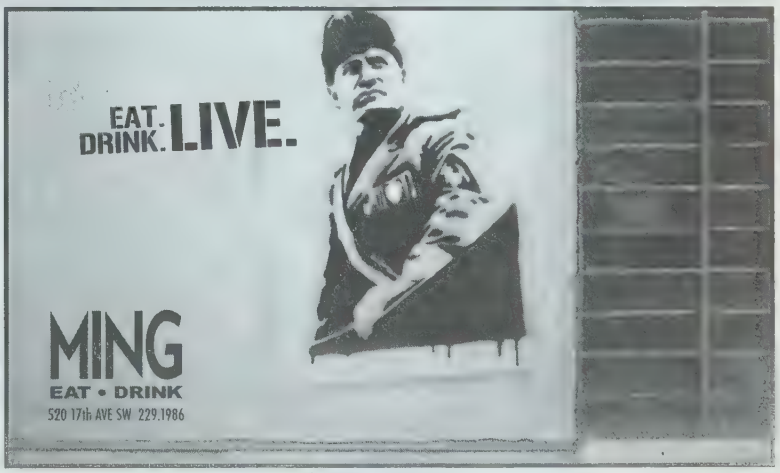
Gala Event: Saturday, November 15

doors open at 7:00 p. m., concert at 8:00

Eckhart-Grammaté Hall, Rozsa Centre, University of Calgary

Admission: Your cash-filled piggy and gala ticket

Piggies are available from any committee member or by calling Shannon Smith at the Calgary Health Trust at (403) 943-0611



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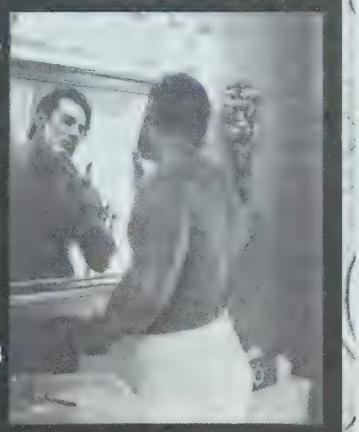

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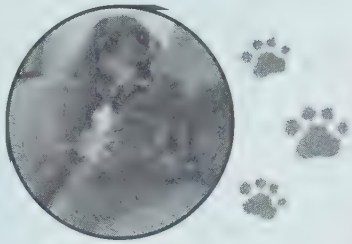
Dear Freddy



Dear Freddy,

For the most part, my mother and I have always enjoyed a fairly close relationship, even though she has known I am gay since high school. The only time we discussed "my lifestyle choice", as she calls it, was when I brought it up—and I've always been fine with that. However, as she's been getting older (she's in her late-seventies now), she has become more and more religious, and getting on my case because of it. Recently, after the Vatican released that rant about gay marriage and the evils of homosexuality, she started a huge fight with me. I didn't get into it with her too much because she's old and a bit set in her ways, but the whole thing hurt me a lot. How you think I should handle this? Do I turn the other cheek the next time she launches into me or do I take the time to try and help her understand? Like I said before, this intolerance is a relatively new thing and it has me really confused.

Sincerely,

Rick J.

Dear Mr. J.,

So, the old girl's got you "up against the ropes" and she's pummelling you with dogma, is she? *Bless 'er!* Ah, the Catholic Church… I've always said that if you tell men to be celibate and then give them free access to wine and brocade gowns you're just asking for trouble. These days, it's hard to tell the difference between an archbishop and a chapter president from NAMBLA—"what a world, what a world", to quote the Wicked Witch of the West. As for the Pope, he should really be more worried about getting his withered old hindquarters to the lav in time these days (unless of course he's been fitted with a special set of Papal Pampers), and less about whether or not, after thousands of years of existence, committed gay and lesbian couples are finally going to wreck it all for mankind. I'm sure this isn't going to help much but I'd say in this stage at the game you might be well advised to choose your battles carefully. I'm not saying you should curl up into a ball and take it all the time, but she may be too far gone for arguing to make any difference. I know it's frustrating, but quite often old people turn to religion when the sand is slipping faster and faster through the hourglass. And, really, who can blame them? On the subject of death (especially impending death), most people would rather think about being greeted by saints and angels than maggots and worms—wouldn't you? Why not cut the old dear some slack? I agree that the Catholic Church is an evil little empire, but trying to convince your mom of that is likely a pointless exercise. How 'bout this: next time your mom attacks, just tell her over and over again that you love her. After all, she seemed to have learned the "Vatican rag" by rote; maybe if she hears it enough she'll clue in on this one, too. Good luck, Padre Pansy…

Big hugs, Freddy

Dear Freddy,

I am super pissed at my roommate! A few weeks ago he borrowed *my* credit card to buy a membership to a porn site and now he won't share the password with me. He gave me money for the transaction right away but won't let me log on 'cause it's his "private business". He wouldn't even have been able to get on there without my help! Do I have a right to be sore or is he being unreasonable? I know he reads you so answer quickly!

Cardholder

Dear Cardholder,

You're damned right your roomie should share, if not on a regular basis then at least he should give you a peek! However, do you know what *kind* of site it was he bought a membership to? Maybe it's a really freaky one with pee or people having sex with stuffed animals (plushies, they're called) or stepping on mice with high heels or something. Gasp—what if it's *heterosexual*?! Horrors! Listen, his 'ship is bound to come in for renewal sooner or later (trust me, there are no lifetime memberships in the world of porn) and his balls will be in your court. When he comes to you with his hand out, why not flop your big ol' wang out into it and ask for your "percentage"? Your credit card company jerks you around, so if he wants in on the action then he can jerk you off. Now that's credit with interest, *non*? Give it a try.

Kisses, Fred

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An eye for design

By Peter Carlyle-Gordge

In his leisure hours, Jym Hominick loves nothing better than relaxing at his sunny cottage on the shores of Lake Winnipeg, investing his creative energy in the design of his garden, a seemingly never-ending project. He spends much time there with Jim Miller, a retired banker, who's been his partner for the past eighteen years. But when he returns to Winnipeg, his energies are very much focused on the inside, not the outdoors. In fact, Inside: Design and Decor, is the name of the company he founded four years ago. It specializes in interior living spaces from city homes and country ranches to lakeside cottages and even deluxe mobile homes.

As a child growing up in Brandon, Hominick, now fifty-seven, always had a flair for design but circumstances conspired to stop him from taking an interior design course at university. Instead, he became a hair stylist, working in the town of Minnedosa and eventually teaching hair styling at Brandon's Assiniboine College.

After that, he worked in a Greek restaurant, later moving to Winnipeg to work with Western International Hotels. Then he worked for Delta Hotels, managing its Rose and Crown pub and doing research in Toronto into the design and equipping of pubs and restaurants.

His love of design finally paid off when he was hired by the upmarket Penthouse Furniture, which has six stores across Canada. With his firm grasp on good design and his strong visual sense, he sold furniture, set up displays and eventually became the Penthouse buyer, travelling to major furniture shows in the U.S. and Canada to check on trends and find out what his well-heeled clients might like. He also designed bedroom displays for wedding shows at the Winnipeg Convention Centre.

Designer Jym Hominick

His buying didn't just extend to upper-end brands of furniture such as Thomasville and Bernhardt; he also took a strong interest in home accessories—everything from cushions and drapes to lighting, flooring, artwork and bric-a-brac. He designs his own accessories, including silk flowers, plants and even trees, which he has manufactured from high quality plastics. "The plants and trees I create thrive on neglect, so they're useful to have if you're busy," he laughs.

Hominick eventually parted company with Penthouse Furniture, but is still greatly in demand for his ideas and expertise on creating innovative living spaces. Today he has both private and corporate clients and his extensive contacts in the furniture and home furnishings industries help him turn décor dreams into reality, no matter what the budget.

A few years ago, he was brought in as consultant when a group of famous women were invited to give lecture evenings of personal reminiscences at Winnipeg's Centennial Concert Hall, under the title My Unique Life Experiences. Included were: Lauren Bacall; Sarah, Duchess of York; Joan Rivers; Maya Angelou; Ivana Trump; Lily Tomlin and Jehan Sadat, wife of the slain Egyptian president.

Hominick's job was to design a living room set, which would best reflect the story and personality of each woman invited to talk. He was able to meet most of them and there was even a fan letter from Jehan Sadat, a leader in the peace movement and women's rights, praising the thoughtful setting he had chosen.

"The lecture series organizers really wanted to get some furniture together and have someone with design flair put it together on stage, but I went further and found out a lot of details about the participants' likes and dislikes," says Hominick. "I talked to their assistants and secretaries to make sure I got all of the details just right."

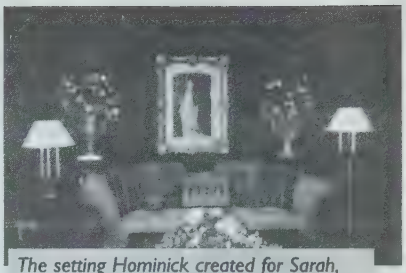
He has designed interiors in several of Winnipeg's plummiest neighbourhoods and recently worked on creating a superb cottage for Brandon orthodontist Jay Te Winburn. The result was featured in *Cottage Life Magazine*.

When starting a project, Hominick first interviews a client to get their general ideas, likes and dislikes. In the case of the country cottage, he then did a layout and not only chose colours, flooring, curtains, furniture, pictures, lamps and accessories—he also chose linens and supervised the arrival of the two huge truckloads of furniture that he had ordered. The orthodontist was delighted with the result and wrote that he had created "exactly the look and feel I wanted… you have used your skills to make it reality."

Hominick's attention to detail even extended to the slipcovers for the cottage: they are reversible, one with a summery theme, the other side for winter nights and log fires.

He has also been busy designing living spaces for corporate clients, such as Triple E, a builder of fairly lavish mobile homes based in Winkler, Manitoba,. Some sell for up to $350,000 each and they include valance window treatments, oak cabinets, fireplaces, TVs, double-door fridges with icemakers and much else, besides.

"They have self-levelling features once you stop for the night and some of them have slide-out sections, so that you can extend living areas once parked.," says Hominick. "They really are the ultimate in mobile luxury—we're talking flat TV screens, fabulous kitchens and bathrooms, as well as a lot of leather furniture here."



The setting Hominick created for Sarah, Duchess of York

Working with photographer Brian Gould, he has put together interiors which reflect the lifestyle choices of a variety of people with different mobile home price ranges. Zooming in on the tastes and lifestyle choices of potential purchasers is the key to successful marketing, so interior décor isn't just about making things look pretty.

He has done the same kind of customized design job for Kingsman, a gas fireplace manufacturer. In the past, their brochures were rather humdrum, but Hominick has turned them into lifestyle statements, using different surrounds to appeal to different clients.

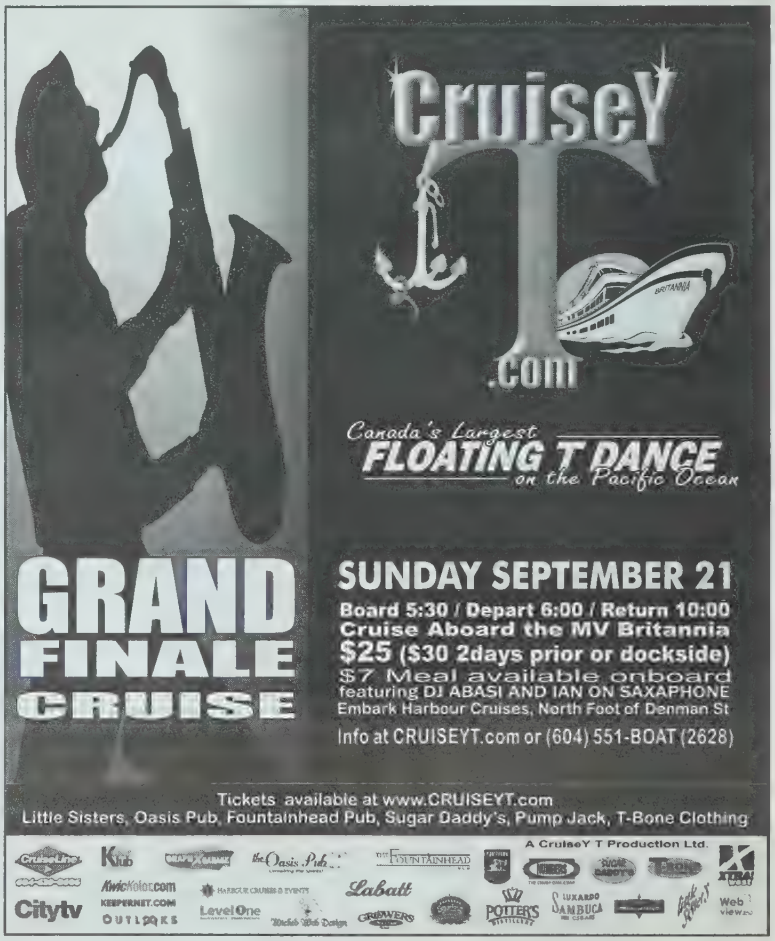
When not designing interiors or tending to his real or artificial flowers, Hominick loves to travel. He rarely misses furniture or design shows and is constantly looking for new ideas or checking on new materials and styles.

"I really only got started on the true career I wanted in interior design when I was forty," he says. "I love the work I'm doing and being paid for that is an added benefit."

His ex-banker partner Jim Miller was born in Trinidad and grew up in Barbados, a place they frequently visit. Eventually they would like to retire there for at least six months of the year.

"We could set up a guest house for visitors or just enjoy the scenery," he adds. "We would still want to spend the summers in Canada, so perhaps we should buy one of those mobile homes and just park it in Winnipeg, so we have a nice home to return to when we come back from Barbados." ▼

Peter Carlyle-Gordge is a former Manitoba correspondent for* Maclean's *and* The Financial Post. *He has written for most major magazines and newspapers in Canada as well as broadcasting on the national and international networks of CBC Radio.



Coronation IV: The Eternal Quest for Lords, Ladies...& Men in Tights...Watch Out Boys...These Bitches Bite!

THE MILLENNIUM CENTRE

(left) Bow Down, Mister
And all hail the newly crowned Empress and Emperor IV of Winnipeg and All of Manitoba, Stephanie Lane-Barr and Tony Barr-Lane.

(left) Polished to Perfection
Gleaming like a perfectly cut crystal, Dallas Deluscious gets her back to the wall.

(right) In Canada, It's Pronounced ZEDbra
The Delicious Nutritious Empress XVI of Toronto, Plum Vicious, gets her lines just right.

Royal Roast and State Dinner

CLUB 200

(right) Would You Like Pie for Dessert?
Hostess Jasmine Whore-Moan finds out that Empress III, SoHorny Beaver had ice cream with a cherry instead.

(right) Chickenbutt?
Always the Jester, Joan Costalotsa shows that she's not chicken to show off her butt.

(left) Caught in the Act
Lucy Lube gets caught off guard with her pants down during a number. Ooo La La!

Out of Town Show #1

HAPPENINGS SOCIAL CLUB

(above) Hucksters
Empress XXVII of Calgary, Bianca La Bouche with some help from Breyanna Burlesque, sells a shirt to the highest bidder.

In Town Show

GIO'S

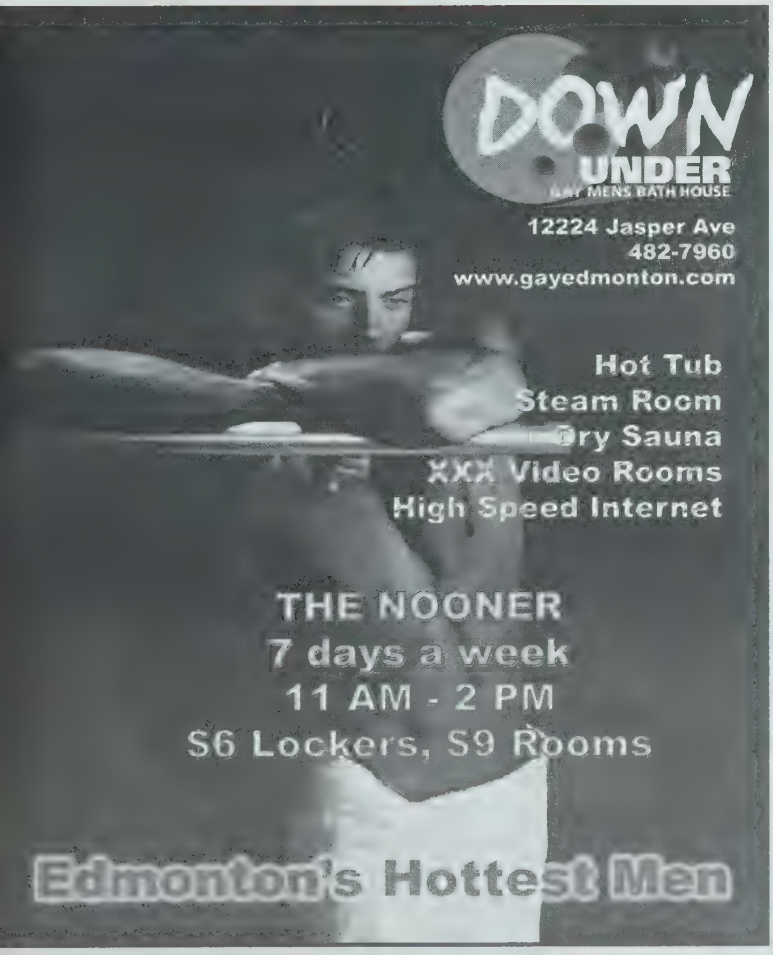
(right) They Were 'D' Cups
Justin Timberlick would sooner have the *real* thing in his hands, rather than grabbing thin air.

Out of Town Show #2

CLUB 200

(left) One, Two, Cha Cha Cha
Performing a sassy salsa dance, Empress XI of Minnesota, Rocio slings some beads.

(right) Is This the Biggest Microphone You've Got?
Big Daddy 'D', Damien Dommer got down to it and sang live. Such a talent!



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Tough Drag Show

GIO'S

(left) Blue Bird of Happiness
A prim and proper Hairy Apparent reflects on how many titles and crowns she has accumulated.

(right) Girl Interrupted
Proving that she's "Crazy for You", Tina Turnyer-Stomach tried to bite some audience members, yet oddly enough, ending up winning the competition.

(left) Hey Big Boys... Spare a Little Time?
Bathhouse babes, Taylor Trash and Gloria Booths, eye up some cuties from the crowd. For shame—you're both attached!

(left) Ready in 5 Minutes
Just look at one can accomplish in just a short time Panyn Cruz gets ready to dig her nails in

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OUTLOOKS Q reviews

Film

By Dale Smith

Directed by: Nisha Ganatra
From: Mata Films
Running Time: 91 minutes
Release Date: 1999

An unconventional brown girl defies her family and tradition in the pursuit of love and happiness? No, this isn't *Bend It Like Beckham*, but a movie that came first, and one that actually has lesbians in it.

Reena (Nisha Ganatra, the film's co-writer and director), a New York photographer and henna artist, blazes a trail of independence with her lesbian identity over the traditional customs of her family. Her mother (cookbook queen Madhur Jaffrey) is conservative, disapproving and just a little in denial, but keeps her family as close-knit as possible. Reena's sister Sarita (Sakina Jaffrey, Madhur Jaffrey's real-life daughter) marries a white man, Mitch (Nick Chinlund), at the start of the film, but when she discovers that she's infertile, Reena volunteers to be artificially inseminated so that her sister can have the family she always wanted. The change of her life's plans makes Sarita re-examine her priorities in life, and only when she asks Reena to stop trying does Reena get pregnant.

When Reena decides to keep the baby, the strains start to show in everyone's relationships. Her girlfriend Lisa (Jill Hennessy) freaks out, saying that nine months was one thing but she didn't sign on for parenthood. Sarita is no longer sure that she wants to be a mother, and even though Mitch wants to keep the baby, a wedge is being driven between Reena and those closest to her.

Even more than the strain in Reena and Lisa's relationship, the transformation of Sarita is one of the film's most compelling storylines. A woman who was raised with the expectation of having a family and wanting nothing more out of life, is suddenly told that she can't have that. When she re-examines her situation, it's interesting to see the final transformation unfold. Likewise, Reena's mother starts dealing with the pregnancy of her lesbian daughter in a way that most mothers do—by adjusting to the situation in the best way they know how, even if it means creatively adapting a few Indian blessing ceremonies along the way.

Nisha Ganatra is a Canadian-born talent, who honed her skills at NYU, studying with Spike Lee and Martin Scorcese. *Chutney Popcorn* was her first feature film and she couldn't have had a better start. Cinematically, the film is nicely shot, but more than anything the introduction of black and white stills (Reena's passion) helps to create a sense of the beauty that she sees in the world. As well, the henna that Reena and Lisa decorate each other with is completely eroticized, and adds a much more sensual note to the film. One also definitely gets a sense that the pair is making love as opposed to having gratuitous sex for the sake of it on the screen.

The clashing and coming together of Indian-American and New York lesbian culture is also one of the film's strong points, and the relatives and circle of friends on each side make for amusing contrasts. It is especially good to note that the characterizations were accurate, and not over the top as they tend to be in many "ethnic" films. Through Reena, Ganatra weaves us between two worlds and brings us to a point where the two no longer antagonize one another. Ultimately, the film is emotionally satisfying and a pleasure to watch, and certainly one that I would see again.

Best lines:

Reena: "I'm not getting married, Mom. Forget it."

Mother: "I want grandchildren. Are you too selfish to give me that?"

Reena: "Mom, I'm a lesbian. I'm not sterile."

Mother: "Shh! Reena, you have no shame."

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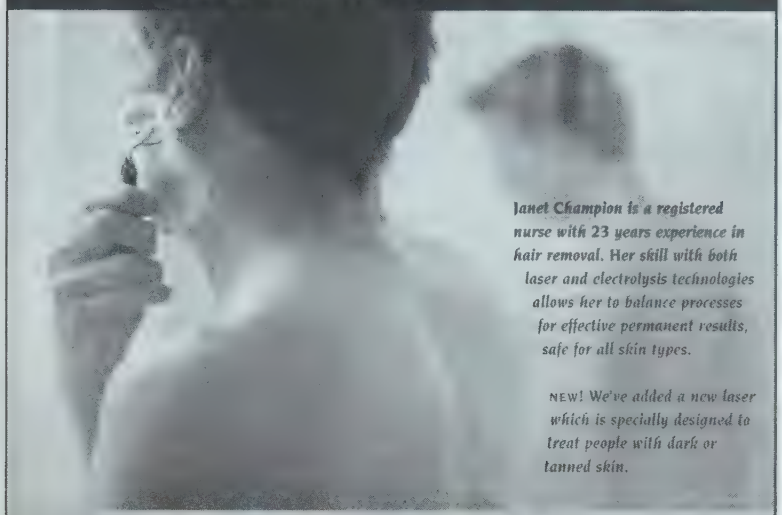

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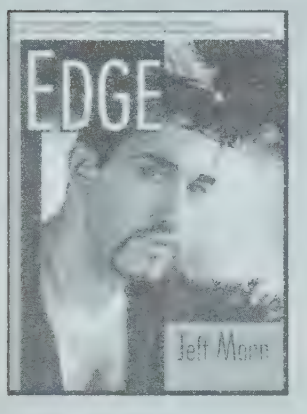
OUTLOOKS Q reviews

Book

By John Ayres



Edge
by Jeff Mann
The Haworth Press, Inc
2003

In my haste to get started on Jeff Mann's book *Edge*, I failed to take notice of its author's credentials as a celebrated poet, a fact mentioned in both the jacket summary and words of praise from fellow writers on the back cover. This oversight, however, was not a serious one, as Mann's experience and expertise as a poet became abundantly clear in a matter of paragraphs, though not in a heavy-handed or obvious kind of way.

Edge is a quirky little book—part memoir, part travelogue, part erotic non-fiction, it is an exercise in sharing that defies any simple categorization. Though poetry really only plays a role in the author's background and interests, Mann's love of language—all language—infuses the book with a wonderfully conversational lyricism, a rhythm that is unmistakably his and his alone. Even when recounting the most commonplace of experiences or events, the book's subtle "soundtrack" of well-crafted prose makes *Edge* a page-turner from beginning to end.

Mann tells his tales—and they are *his* tales, even though they possess a certain universal wisdom—with unflinching and impressive honesty. There is no sense of "gimmickry" in his soul baring, just an obvious passion for reality, for hitting the nail on the head even when such a true blow could potentially be painful. Clear of voice and of perspective, Mann balances detail with rhythm, and never allows himself or the reader to be bogged down with extraneous window-dressing. Throughout the book, scenes are set, played out, and then passed by—the journeys he writes about are both spiritual and physical, including the one from cover to cover. That they are immensely entertaining to boot is a bonus, the happy result of candor and wit being filtered through hindsight.

Edge is a book of travels, but not necessarily a travel book in the usual sense. Though many of his destinations have a ring of familiarity (the still-predominant western European heritage of North America makes them so), Mann still embraces his discoveries in Germany and the British Isles with a true spirit of adventure, employing all five senses on behalf of the reader and dutifully recording the results. Much to my delight (and doubtless the delight of others who have "tagged along"), he somehow manages to celebrate the exotic otherness that still does exist in an era of globe-gobbling McDonald's franchises and an ever increasing "mall mentality".

When it comes to the book's carnal components, Mann's take on erotica is refreshingly matter-of-fact, and there is no unnecessary fanfare or grandstanding involved to distract from the "raw" experiences offered the reader. As a sexual being, he shares his appetites—and the encounters that result—with little, if any, literary framing or set-up, a pared-down formula that sends ideas on an express trip from brain stem to groin. Like his surroundings in any given environment, the pertinent details of sexual escapades are observed and recorded (even if only in fantasy), and then it's on to the next encounter that life, love and lust brings his way. In an industry often clogged with overwrought purple porn-prose, this no-nonsense approach is a welcome one, indeed, and a thousand times more effective because of its straightforwardness. Even in the context of fleeting and impersonal encounters, the author allows himself—and, more importantly, the reader—glimpses of a vulnerability and abandon not often seen in "erotic" writings, fictional or otherwise.

One of the most charming elements of the book appears early on, when Mann is struggling to find a balance between recognizing his sexuality and maintaining his demeanor as a young Southern gentleman growing up in small town Appalachia. He finds comfort and a sense of identity in, of all things, Barnabas Collins, the vampire protagonist in the camp primetime soap *Dark Shadows*. Mann's parallels between the isolation he feels as a gay man and the plight of the vampire outcast are both touching and funny—not to mention quite accurate when he relates forbidden bloodlust to homosexual yearnings. "He had his own dark secret, like a coffin hidden in the basement," he writes. "How vividly he relates to the monster, whose appetites are reviled by the world, who is hunted down by the average and the self-righteous, who is destroyed by a mob of peasants waving torches and crosses." *Fabulous*. And only a tiny taste of what *Edge* has to offer.

Whether empathizing with bloodsuckers, bemoaning the ever-widening generation gap he witnesses while teaching university classes, or committing sexual "atrocities" on a beefy waiter in the safety of his mind (or, at times, with willing accomplices behind closed doors), Jeff Mann is a generous and engaging raconteur. It almost seems odd that something so "on the mark" would be entitled *Edge*, but having read the book I have to trust the man's instincts, not to mention his wit, intellect and not-so-common sense. If bedding down with a poetic libertine (I recommend a chapter a night before turning in) is in the cards for you this fall, you needn't look any further than Jeff Mann and the *Edge* he has over all competitors.

Best lines:

"It seems logical that I'd be attracted to the sort of men I spent my early youth around. And what began as protective camouflage, as mimicry, Viceroy butterfly pretending to be Monarch, eventually became identity."

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Index...

100 - Employment
office 101
domestic 102
trades 103
service industry 104
work wanted 105
help wanted 106
gardening services 107
salespersons wanted 108
retail salesperson 109

200 - Real Estate
homes and condos for sale 201
homes, apartments, and suites for rent 202
shared accommodations 203
accommodations 204
accommodations wanted 205
vacation rentals 206
office space for rent 207
Real Estate Agent 208

300 - For Sale
automobiles 301
home furnishings 302
antiques and artworks 303
computers 304
general and miscellaneous 305
garage sales 306
pets 307

400 - Personals
massage 401
friends 402
models 403
dating services 404
announcements 405
phone lines 406
general 407
health services 408
personal services 409
personal growth 410
Escorts 411
Erotic Body Massage 412

500 - Announcements
birthdays 501
anniversary 502
obituary 503
in memoriam 504
notices 505
general 507
lost & found 508
services 509

600 - Travel
accommodations 601
travel Alberta 602
travel BC 603
camping 604
travel international 605
general 606

700- Business
services 701
business opportunity 702
computer rental 703

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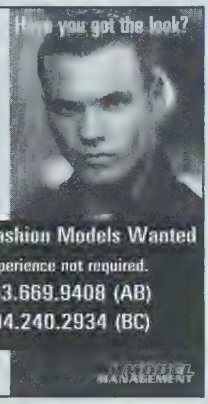

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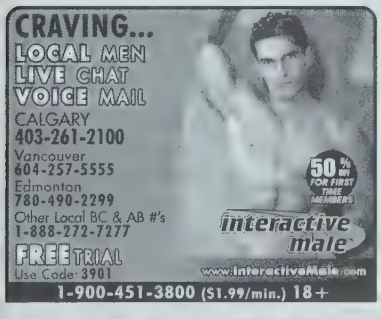

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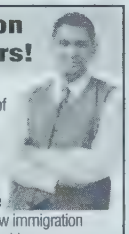

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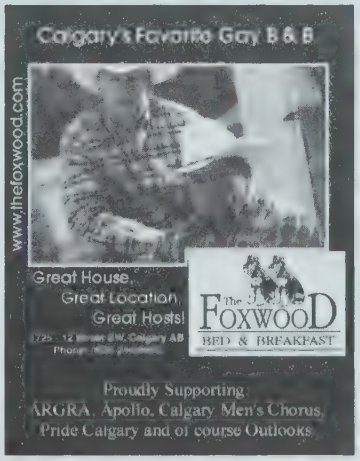

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Metropolitan Community Church.....2010
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Speak Sebastian.....2024
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Running Time: 90 minutes

Before the local auto repair shop opens, a customer leaves his car for a tune-up with a note to deliver it to his home at midnight the same day. The first mechanic to arrive finds this unusual but the boss reminds him that they *do* deliver and it's part of his job. Begrudgingly, the mechanic agrees and begins working on the tune-up. In the meantime, Kevin Cobain arrives with his wagon, which also needs a tune-up—it's going to be a busy day for these six hunky mechanics. Ricky Price meets Kevin, but he only wants to deal with another mechanic, Peter Wilder, so Ricky goes away disappointed. Later, Peter tells Ricky he can do the job on Kevin's car and look after Kevin when he returns to pick it up.

Meanwhile, Marc Pierce is asked to put on a steering cap for a customer who is not very mechanically inclined and who is a regular at the workshop. When the job is done, Marc goes to the waiting lounge to tell the customer his car is ready to go. Mark's in for a big surprise and a big tip as the customer strips in order to express his gratitude. In this workshop, every job requires perfection and customer satisfaction is paramount. Mark allows the handsome, hung customer to enjoy the special service and these two studs prove they can both handle big tools with experienced hands. It's easy to see why the workshop enjoys repeat business and referrals!

Everyone heads out for lunch but Ricky and Peter are left behind to wait for Kevin to return for his vehicle. Much to his surprise, Ricky finds out that Kevin and Peter are best buddies who enjoy hot threesomes. When Kevin arrives, he admits that he's no mechanic but he has the perfect tool for another kind of job. He brags about the size of his endowment and wastes no time showing Ricky why he's very popular and can provide a real service job of his own. This threesome of super-studs finds every position possible around an old truck that is being rebuilt and restored. No job is too big in this workshop!

After lunch, the boss, Drew Andrews, is in his office when a cute, young blond comes to apply for a job. We already know the special qualifications required to work here, so this is not your average job interview. Jeff Andrews quickly demonstrates that he completed the proper apprenticeship in the army and knows what to do with Drew's heavy equipment. The boss approves of Jeff's qualifications and he's immediately hired. By the end of this movie, you'll wish *your* car needed some repairs and you lived in this neighbourhood. It would be the only car repair bill you *wouldn't* complain about!

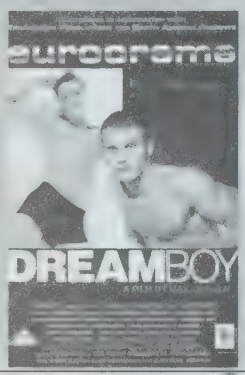
Review sponsored by Rainbow Pride Resource Centre,
2nd Floor, 1229 16 Avenue S.W. Calgary
Ph: (403) 266-5685

RATING: OUT OF FIVE POSSIBLE STARS

MUSIC: ★★★★ *SET:* ★★★★
BODIES: ★★★★★(★) *STORY:* ★★★★
ACTION SCENES: ★★★★★

Dream Boy

From: Eurocreme/
Triumvirate Productions



Featuring: Rick Alares, Sherman Ash, Anthony Azimov, Chris Brady, Jamie Carter, Philippe DeLores, Brock Devonshire, Andrew Foqs, Billy Forrest, Joel Jones, Nick King, Angel Knight, Andrew Knutsson, Antonio Lopez, Ryan Morgan, Jack Paronuzzi, Kris Singleton, Ben Slater.

Running Time: 90 minutes

After two months of travelling in Europe, Danny arrives home to his flat in London and, upon his return, learns from his roommate that the landlord has said a third person will be sharing their flat. Despite this unwelcome development, Danny enthusiastically recounts the details of his trip over a beer or two, sharing incredible stories about Paris, Germany and Mont Blanc in Switzerland. Two months earlier, eighteen-year-old college virgin Danny woke up with his morning erection (as usual) and turned to the Web for satisfaction. Although a regular occurrence, this day proved to be special: Danny decided it was finally time to actually meet someone and invite them to his home for sex. He selected twenty-four-year-old muscle boy Max, with a claim to ten inches. Much to Danny's surprise, when they met in person, Max had obviously described himself truthfully and the two horse-hung studs immediately hit it off. Danny was nervous but Max quickly made him relax and the pleasure was mutual for these young, horny men.

The two new friends ended up spending the day together and discovered that they both had the summer with nothing to do, as Max was between jobs and Danny was a student. Very soon they decided a trip to Europe together might be fun, and headed off to a travel agency to seek advice on where to find the best men in Europe.

Their gay-friendly travel counsellor was more than happy to help. In fact, the first idea he had was for the perfect threesome to send them on their way. This travel agent knew how to please and couldn't believe his eyes when he saw what Danny and Max had to offer. He determined the exact place to send them in Europe after proving his expertise in handling the huge task before him.

Danny, being an excellent storyteller, mesmerizes his roommate with the tales of threesomes and group orgies that Danny and Max created as they travelled through Europe. Now home, the virgin Danny is no more and his new, worldly persona suits him. As he comes to the end of his stories, the new roommate arrives. And it seems that a completely new chapter is about to unfold.

Review sponsored by Express Video,
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Email: exec.express@shaw.ca

Available on VHS & DVD

RATING: OUT OF FIVE POSSIBLE STARS

MUSIC: ★★★★ *SET:* ★★★★★
BODIES: ★★★★★(★) *STORY:* ★★★★
ACTION SCENES: ★★★★★

Striding with purpose

By Dale Smith

Nancy (and later Geri) may have told you that these boots were made for walking, but come September 20 and 21, you may prefer to trade in those boots for something a little less blister-inducing. It's that time of year again, when thousands gather at over 130 venues in more than 100 communities across the country for AIDS Walk Canada. This year, organizers are expecting some 60,000 Canadians to take part in order to raise funds for local community-based AIDS organizations that provide HIV/AIDS care, prevention education and support services.

AIDS Walk Canada is the country's largest HIV/AIDS fundraising events, as well as an important method for raising awareness. This year's theme is Why Walk? Because Prevention Remains Our Only Cure—an important message when you consider the fact that eleven new infections occur every day. In 2001, the number of positive test reports increased for the first time since 1994, which indicates a breakdown in the message that's being put out there. Among gay men, infection rates remain about thirty-seven percent of new infections, though that number spiked to forty-two percent in 2000. While it has since returned to thirty-seven percent, it shows an increasing need to emphasize prevention messages targeted at the gay community.

This year's theme is also designed to encourage more Canadians to walk. The more people walking means more awareness raised. This is seen as the first step in putting HIV/AIDS back on the map, as there is still silence and stigma surrounding the subject, and its urgency as a "cause" seems to have dwindled. No longer are celebrities (other than Elizabeth Taylor) wearing red ribbons, and that silence gives the impression that HIV/AIDS is no longer a serious issue. AIDS Walk Canada aims to break that silence in order to remind people that HIV/AIDS remains a threat because we still don't have a cure. The event is also meant to encourage support, compassion and commitment in Canadians on behalf of those people whose lives have directly felt the impact of the disease.

With nationwide fundraisers, people often worry that the money they're pledging will wind up in the hands some faceless national organization that doles out pitiful amounts to those who beg the most, and only when the mood suits them. Not so with AIDS Walk. What's unique about this event is that all of the funds raised within a community stay within that community. Local community-based AIDS organization that provide HIV/AIDS care, prevention education, and support services to those in their area benefit directly. These funds are crucial to these community-based AIDS organizations for their ongoing operations and services for those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

Since 1995, AIDS Walk Canada has raised close to $25 million in over 100 communities. In 2002, over $2.18 million was raised, and this year organizers expect to raise $2.5 million. As this event is funded entirely by the private sector, generous corporate donations are what keep AIDS Walk Canada going. This year's National Platinum Sponsor is Molson; with Gold Sponsor the MAC AIDS Fund. A number of sponsors also contribute at the local level of each walk, keeping with the community spirit of AIDS Walk Canada.

The walks will be taking place in every province and territory in Canada, at over one hundred and thirty sites. To find walk sites in your area, visit **www.aidswalk-canada.ca** for complete listings. People can register as individuals or as teams at their local AIDS organizations. Only you can raise awareness of HIV/AIDS in Canada, and help to spread the message of prevention. While HIV/AIDS is no longer just a "gay disease , as the community that was hit first and hit hardest we owe it to ourselves to see the fight through until a cure is found. ▼

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Photo: Robin Perelle, Xtra West

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